

LAST WEEK'S
AVERAGE DAILY SALE
444,000

No 63,147

Biffen blames inflation rise on Chancellor

Lawson accused over 'precipitate' tax cuts

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

Mr John Biffen yesterday blamed Mr Nigel Lawson for making "precipitate" cuts in taxation as the Chancellor came under strong attack over his admission that inflation is set to rise till the middle of next year.

Mr Biffen, a former Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said that rising inflation would undermine the Chancellor in his continuing argument with the Prime Minister over whether sterling should be part of the European Monetary System (EMS).

As MPs digested the im-

plications of Mr Lawson's end-of-term message, Mr Neil Kinnock said that Mr Lawson was dealing to the British people a losing hand - the highest interest rates in any developed country, rising inflation and a big and growing balance of payments deficit.

The Labour leader, speaking in Exeter, said last night that none of the excuses on offer were acceptable. Interest rates were up because Mr Lawson let credit get out of

control and then handed a top rate tax gift to the rich; and of the £2 billion increase in imports only £150 million were capital imports.

Mr Biffen, interviewed on BBC Radio, said that even at the time of the Budget expansion of credit was already a big factor in the economy, and since then it had expanded further.

It was unsatisfactory for Mr Lawson to have to admit that it would touch on the argument he had been having with Mrs Margaret Thatcher, because that was why she had taken such a robust view of the unwisdom of pegging sterling.

"Clearly this is an unhappy background for the Chancellor given that there is no unanimity of view between him and the Prime Minister", Mr Biffen said.

He said that the Chancellor had been so heavily dominated by tax reductions in the Budget that when it became necessary to take short-term action against inflation he had properly chosen interest rates, and been supported by the Prime Minister.

"That does not disguise the fact that it is now clearly observed that there is a difference of view between the Prime Minister and the Chancellor as to whether sterling should be pegged into the EMS."

That argument, he said, could not be resolved to everyone's benefit but the Chancellor's ability to "prosecute his point of view" would be undermined if there was continuing inflation.

Asked if the Government

was paying the price for relaxing monetary policy, Mr Biffen said that policies had to be adjusted to changing circumstances.

He went on: "I do feel there has been a precipitate move towards very substantial tax reductions. I think credit expansion has proceeded at a rate which would not have been acceptable to the thinking that dominated the early Thatcher years."

Mr Kinnock said that Mr Lawson's claim that the current difficulties were similar to those successfully dealt with in the past was not true. Thanks to oil the present government had not had a balance of payments deficit; it had now. And the last time they tried to deal with inflation with high interest rates and a high pound they "killed a fifth of British industry, wiped out three million jobs and gave us our first ever manufactured trade deficit."

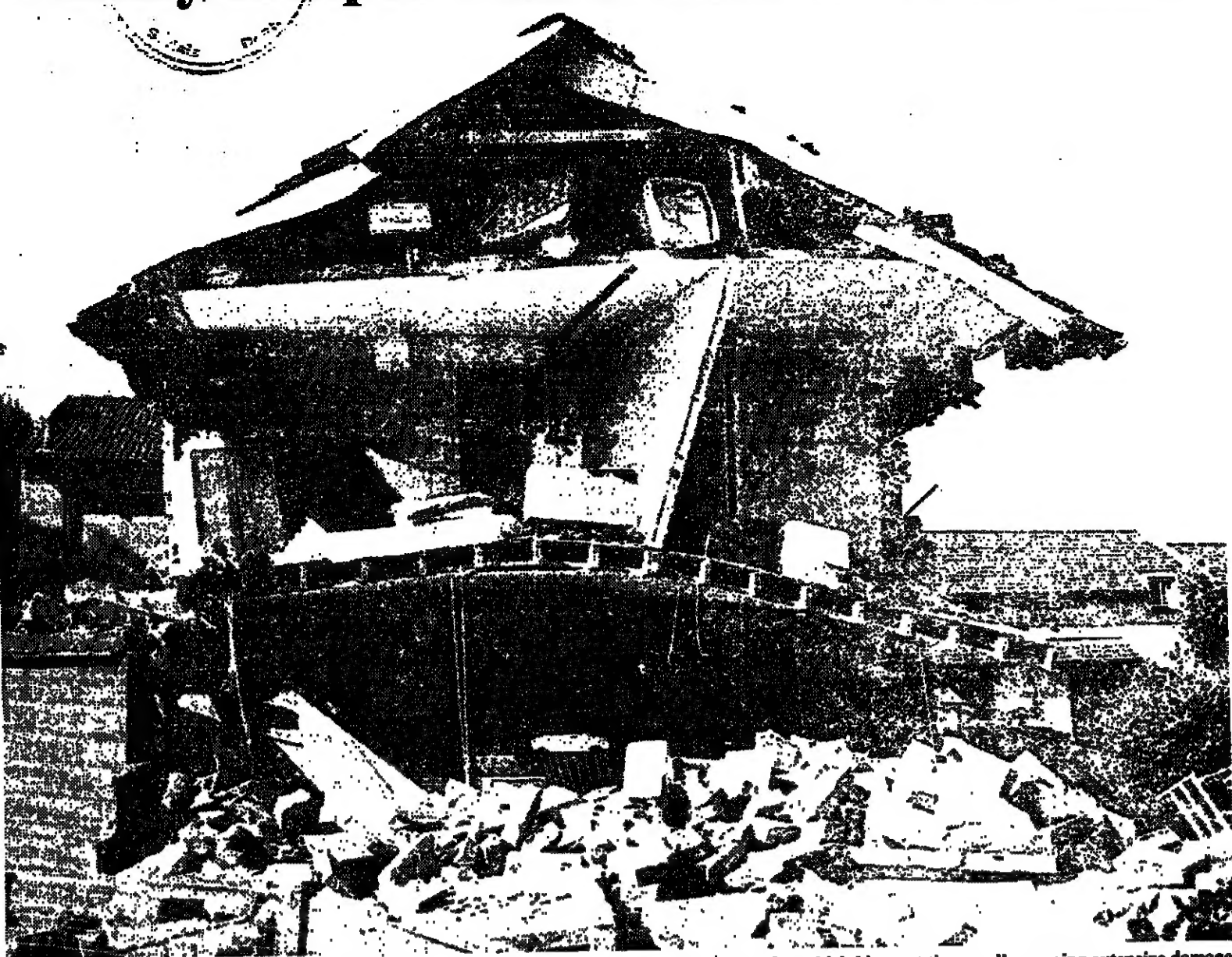
Mr Roy Hattersley, Labour's deputy leader, said that his party's predictions during the election campaign about economic trouble lying ahead had come true.

The Prime Minister, he said, had not promised month after month of record trade deficits fuelled by a credit and consumer boom; that interest rates would be pushed so high that the cost of house-buying would be beyond low and average income families; or that inflation would take off again.

Keeping up the barrage against Mr Lawson, Mr John Smith, the shadow Chancellor, said that his letter to Conservative MPs was "a brazen exercise in economic doublethink."

Nearly all his Budget predictions had proved to be wildly wrong within only four months. A predicted deficit on the balance of payments of £4 billion for the year was now running at £1 billion for each month; inflation predicted at 4 per cent was heading for 6 per cent; and money supply figures showed an expansion of 7.7 per cent instead of a predicted increase in the 1 to 5 per cent range.

Family escapes with bruises in home blast



The remains of the Selley home which will be demolished after the early-morning blast yesterday which blew out three walls, causing extensive damage.

Shore warning that Kinnock's party leadership is on trial

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

Mr Neil Kinnock was yesterday given an end-of-term warning from one of Labour's elder statesmen that his leadership of the party is on trial.

As the Labour leader prepares for his summer break next week, after his most dismal two months since taking charge of the party, Mr Peter Shore said the feeling was not that the time had come for Mr Kinnock to stand down as leader, and make way for another candidate, but a great deal would depend on how he handled the party in the coming year.

Mr Shore, the former Cabinet minister who stood against Mr Kinnock for the leadership in 1983, said it had been a long, exhausting and disappointing session of Parliament for Labour.

It had started the year, despite another heavy election defeat, with morale high, a feeling that it had fought a good campaign, and with Mr Kinnock's prestige enhanced. The Conservatives had put

through a programme crowded with "horrors", and yet at the end of the session Labour was not ahead of the Government and Mr Kinnock had lost some of the extra support he gained during the election campaign.

Mr Shore said that Mr Kinnock's handling of the defence policy controversy had been bad for his leadership. He had provoked the debate himself with a television interview and then

after the ensuing uproar, had found himself pinned more closely to "what I believe to be a very unpopular defence strategy."

Mr Shore said that, with the exception of Mr Robin Cook and his handling of the health service, Labour had not yet established a "moral and intellectual supremacy over the Government."

"It is absolutely essential that we do so. It is essential that Mr Kinnock should do so over Mrs Thatcher in whatever areas he thinks are best," he said.

Asked if Mr Kinnock was on trial in the next 12 months, Mr Shore said: "Yes. And so is the rest of the Labour Party."

Mr Shore's remarks, delivered totally without rancour, are shared by a large number of Labour MPs, although they would argue there have been other success stories as well as Mr Cook.

Most Labour MPs have little doubt that Mr Kinnock will lead them into the next

election. But their feeling is that the period up to and including the Labour Party conference will be crucial for Mr Kinnock as he battles to reassert his authority.

If he can cap the certain landslide victory over Mr Benn in the election contest with a good handling of performance at the conference, talk of any challenge to Mr Kinnock from a serious rival is likely to ebb away.

The critical period for him then will be in just under a year's time when the two-year policy review process comes to an end, and Labour finally has to grasp the nettle of presenting a new defence policy, and the one on which it will fight the next election.

A disaster on this year's scale might then raise a genuine question about his leadership.

Mr Kinnock has made no attempt to play down the difficulties of recent weeks. But he has pointed out that despite their Labour's position

Continued on page 24, col 1

Children are hurled from beds

A family of five escaped with bruises yesterday when their home was blown apart, hurling the three children from their beds into the garden.

Mr Mark Selley, aged 30, his wife, Tina, aged 29, and their daughters, Vikki, aged seven, Alex, aged five, and Samantha, aged 20 months, were asleep when the explosion ripped apart their three-bedroom council house in Minehead, Somerset, at 5.45am.

Mr Selley, a self-employed plumber, who recently installed a heating system fuelled by liquid gas, said: "I don't know what caused the explosion. We haven't used the heaters all summer and the gas containers are stored outside, as they should be."

"I woke up with all the bedroom walls missing and the children were blown right out into the garden. They were lying dazed among the rubble."

"It was just as well that the house fell apart because if it had been stronger it would have contained the blast and we'd have gone up with it."

The police are investigating.

WIN £134,000

Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator

There were no winners of the daily prize yesterday, but today there is a chance to win the weekly prize of £8,000. The Portfolio Accumulator now stands at £134,000.

PROPERTY GUIDE



Today's full-colour Times Property Guide discovers rising prices on the flat Fenlands and looks at housing incentives offered to job-movers

INSIDE

Village Voice

The new road which linked the once inaccessible Himalayan village to the world brought a bus and the villagers outsmarted the outsiders. Page 8

Safety doubts

Are there holes in the new investors' compensation scheme? Family Money investigates. Pages 30-34

Gatting out

Mike Gatting, the former England captain, has told the selectors that he does not wish to play for England until at least next summer. Page 42

Degree results

Degrees from the University of Birmingham will be published on Monday. Glasgow results appear today. Page 37

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Second big order for Airbus

Airbus Industrie has landed its second big order in two weeks for the Airbus A320. Canadian Airlines International announced yesterday its decision to buy 24 of the aircraft and expressed an interest in acquiring a further 17.

Last week Air Canada announced its intention to order 34 A320s.

All three major Canadian operators have now chosen Airbus. Nine aircraft have already been delivered to Wardair and a further five are on order.

The latest order will be delivered to Canadian Airlines International in 1993. The aircraft, which seats 147, will be used on domestic routes and on flights to America.

The rush of orders comes as a report on the recent Airbus crash in France confirmed that pilot error was the most likely cause of the disaster.

Last-minute veto reserved on SAS

By Tony Dawe and Philip Webster

Ministers will retain the right to veto the attendance of seven members of the SAS at the Gibraltar inquiry into the deaths of three IRA terrorists until the very last minute, it emerged last night.

An "inner cabinet" of the Prime Minister, the Foreign Secretary and the Secretary of State for Defence will meet early in September to review the security arrangements for one of the most controversial court cases in British history.

They will need to be entirely convinced that the soldiers will be safe from revenge attacks for killing the terrorists, and that their identities will be adequately protected finally agreement is reached on their attendance.

Defence chiefs will be involved in overseeing the security operation and senior SAS officers will be allowed to check the arrangements before their men appear in the

US planes in near miss with airliner

From John Best, Ottawa

An investigation was launched by the Canadian aviation authorities yesterday into a near miss forcing an airliner bound from Gatwick airport to Canada with 256 passengers and crew on board to make an emergency climb to avoid colliding with two United States Air Force jets intercepting Soviet bombers above the Atlantic.

Officials of Worldways, who operate the DC8, said there had been no radio warning that the F15 jets were close to the flight path of their charter plane from the flight deck.

The DC8, on a flight to Ottawa and Toronto, was believed to be carrying both Britons and Canadians.

To avoid a collision, the Worldways pilot climbed and banked sharply to the right, so that the F15s passed beneath. Mr William Doucette, vice-president of flight operations for Worldways, said that the

military planes were approaching the passenger liner "almost head-on" and were within 500 to 1,000 ft at an altitude of about 31,000 ft. The incident occurred about 250 miles east of Newfoundland.

Captain Don Roy, a Canadian Defence Department spokesman, confirmed that two long-range Soviet Bear bombers were intercepted by F15s on Wednesday. In addition to the two American fighters, two Canadian CF18 fighters were also in the vicinity, he said.

The Soviet bombers were assumed to be on a flight between the Soviet Union and Cuba. Such flights are frequently intercepted by Canadian and US fighters as they fly close to North American airspace.

According to Mr Doucette, there was no radio contact between the military jets and the passenger plane.

The lost landmark of Bonnie Prince Charlie

By Kerry Gill

One of Scotland's most famous landmarks, the Glenfinnan monument, depicting the spot where Bonnie Prince Charlie first raised his standard in 1745, may be in the wrong place.

Exactly 200 years after the death of Prince Charles Edward Stuart, Mr Francis Cameron-Head of Inverallort, who inaugurated the Glenfinnan Gathering in 1946.

He remembered the men - both dead now - expressing their doubts about the location of the monument, at a Glenfinnan Gathering during the early 1950s.

Seton Gordon, who taught Edward VII to play the bagpipes, had felt that Bonnie Prince Charlie would hardly

have raised his standard in front of 1,400 clansmen on a flat piece of marsh. It would have been much more likely that the occasion took place on a knoll. Mr Thorner eventually saw a Victorian painting showing the ceremony taking place on the west bank of the River Finnan.

But the most convincing evidence came to light after a fire swept the western slopes of Glenfinnan. The intense heat burnt away 10 in of moss, lichen and earth, revealing a rock engraved with the words, in Latin: "1745. In the name of the Lord the standard of Charles Edward Stuart, triumphing at last was set up."

The inscription on the stone is believed to have been commissioned during the last century by the Reverend Father Donald MacDonald,

who was keen to preserve the exact site of the rising. There is even an arrow on the stone pointing to a hollow where the staff of the White Banner rested.

Mr Thorner said: "It did not make sense that a lot of men should gather down on a flat field. Principal characters in any occasion like this would always get up a little bit higher, on top of one of the knolls."

Now he wants to have the commemorative stone looked after by the National Trust and proper access to it established.

Next month the annual Glenfinnan Gathering takes place, but many eyes will now doubtless stray to the grassy knoll on the other side of the River Finnan, possibly the true site of the rising.

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NEWS ROUNDUP

Covent Garden marketing move

The Royal Opera House in London is to launch a new marketing initiative this autumn to combat a further 5 per cent increase in seat prices.

The Covent Garden management is working on a booking scheme which would draw audiences to less popular operas and ballets by linking them by themes.

Work has also started on a new seat configuration in the stalls which will provide a better sight of the stage. Two new boxes are being built in the grand tier.

The Opera House has been encouraged by a fall in attendance of only 1 per cent in the last financial year despite a big increase in prices in September. It said yesterday that advance bookings for the autumn were holding up well.

Box office revenue last year climbed by £900,000 thanks to the new prices, which sent seat prices from £48 to £70. The extra revenue helped cut a projected £1.2 million deficit by more than half.

University dispute

A scientific conference which was to have been held at Hull University has been switched in protest at the treatment of a lecturer who was made redundant after refusing to take early retirement. The decision by the British Society for the Philosophy of Science to switch its annual conference, due to start on September 23, to Southampton University comes after a call by the Association of University Teachers for Hull to be ostracized by academics. Dr Peter Gibbins, secretary of the society, said it decided it would be inadvisable to hold its conference at Hull because of the dispute concerning Mr Edgar Page, aged 57, a philosophy lecturer. *Parliament, page 4*

Skinner case dropped

The Crown Prosecution Service yesterday decided not to proceed with a case of obstruction against Mr Dennis Skinner, the Labour MP for Bolsover, after being told by Mr Allan Green, QC, the Director of Public Prosecutions, that the charge was too trivial. Mr Skinner, dubbed the Beast of Bolsover, was arrested for allegedly obstructing the highway when he attended a picket in support of more than 200 technicians who have been dismissed by TV-am. He said he would be returning to the picket line.

Poison pens outlawed

Sending poison-pen letters became an offence yesterday when a private member's Bill received the Royal Assent. The Bill also covers putting offensive material such as broken glass through letter boxes. The Malignant Communications Act was introduced by Mr Andrew Stewart, Conservative MP for Sherwood. Causing distress or anxiety does not have to be proved under the Act as the new offence would be committed at the point of dispatch, and the Act covers any form of sending or delivery. The maximum penalty will be a fine of £1,000.

Lyceum still a theatre

Brent-Walker, the leisure and property group whose purchase of the closed Lyceum Theatre from the London Residuary Body dismayed the theatre world last month, yesterday said it intended to restore it as a theatre. Rather than turn the theatre into a cabaret restaurant based on the model of the Paris Lido, as the residuary body had indicated, Brent-Walker wants to spend £7 million restoring it as a drama venue. Brent-Walker's lease on the building is being contested in court by the present leaseholders, Mecca. The freehold belongs to the Theatre Trust.

Shipyard deadlock

Shop stewards representing 13,000 striking shipyard workers at the VSEL yard in Barrow, Cumbria, yesterday rejected proposals agreed by their union's national officers and the company to end the eight-week dispute. The men walked out over plans to reintroduce a fixed summer holiday period. The stewards were told that each worker had been offered £200 to end their flexible holiday plus five days extra pay each, in return for phasing in a fixed fortnight from 1990. The strike leader, Mr Frank Ward, said there would be more talks with the management on Monday.

Home buyers start gazumping with removals

By Ronald Faux

Buyers rushing to the property market to beat the month-end deadline for tax relief on joint mortgages are also gazumping each other in the search for removal vans.

One company in east London has added £30 to its normal price of £130 to remove the contents of an average three-bedroom house because of the weekend demand.

Wayne's Removals said many people had been turned away. "We have had some problems of customers caught in a chain of house deals that breaks down because one link is gazumped. That means we are left with an empty van", a company official said.

Other companies reported house buyers so desperate to move they were offering far above the going rate.

Estate agents confirmed a

sharp rise in business, particularly from first-time buyers. The surge pushed up prices of properties under £100,000, where demand was especially fierce, by around 20 per cent.

Competition led to a battle of the cheese books as young couples fought to secure their first home.

Prudential Property Services said the rush had come at a bad time. The summer

holidays was when many families normally moved. The tax changes had added to the pressure on removal firms.

The Woolwich reported yesterday that joint mortgage holders had represented more than 41 per cent of the society's offers in June.

Of those 11 per cent were engaged couples, 15.9 per cent co-habitees, 9.1 per cent friends, 4.8 per cent family and 0.4 per cent "others".

Baker calls education Act 'an historic moment'

By Douglas Broom
Education Reporter

The Government's mammoth Education Reform Bill received the Royal Assent yesterday, ushering in the most radical shake-up in English and Welsh education since the Second World War.

Its panoply of powers stretches from the admission of toddlers to primary schools to the employment rights of senior university professors. Almost every aspect of education will be touched by its influence.

Describing the Bill's passage into law, Mr Kenneth Baker, the Education Secretary, could not resist a pun on its new name — the Education Reform Act. "It is the beginning of a new ERA", he said.

It was an historic moment in the history of education, he added. "The Education Reform Act will transform education in this country. It

will mean more choice for parents, better management and higher standards.

"Parents will begin to see benefits from the Government's reforms over the next couple of years. Improvements will continue throughout the 1990s as the Act's provisions take full effect.

"Next term parents should stand as governors, vote in parent governor elections and see that their voice is heard. Parents, teachers, employers and local education authorities all have a crucial part to play in raising standards and ensuring that our much-needed reforms benefit all the nation's children."

As he was speaking it was confirmed that parents in Manchester had already begun moves to take advantage of one of the new Act's key "parent power" provisions.

More than 20 per cent of parents at Audenshaw Boys High School,

Thameside, petitioned governors for a ballot on pulling the school out of local authority control under the new Act.

On Thursday the newly formed Grant Maintained Schools Trust predicted that within two years 100 schools would have used the Act to opt out.

At the heart of the Act is the proposal for a national curriculum for all state schools to be followed by every pupil aged 5 to 16.

Like most of the main planks of the reform package the curriculum emerged virtually unscathed from the 370 hours of parliamentary debate devoted to the Bill's 238 clauses and 13 schedules.

Under the new curriculum pupils will study 10 subjects — the "core subjects" of English, maths and science together with the "foundation subjects" of history, geography, technology, a foreign language,

music, art and physical education. They will be tested to meet attainment targets at the ages of seven, 11, 14 and 16, with parents receiving reports, and overall results being published to allow comparisons between schools.

The Act will widen parental choice by creating two new types of schools. Existing state schools will be able to opt out of local authority control to become grant-maintained, funded directly by Whitehall.

City technology colleges, backed by private enterprise, will offer a science and technology-orientated education to pupils aged between 11 and 18 in the inner cities. There are also plans for a hybrid CTC where pupils would study the technology of showbusiness and the performing arts.

Schools will also have to admit pupils up to their physical capacity,

based on a "standard number" of pupils set by the Government.

And school governors will get financial control of their schools with power extending to the appointment and dismissal of teachers and other staff. The same rights will be given to further education college governors.

Religious education and school assemblies will in future have to have predominantly Christian character although pupils from other religions will be allowed their own acts of worship.

The Act also provides for the abolition of the Inner London Education Authority and the transfer of its powers to the 13 inner London boroughs from April 1990.

Those university dons with "tenure" will lose its protection and all academics will be liable to be made redundant for the first time.

GCSE watchdog, page 4

Government refutes any neglect of Nato duties

By David Walker and Kerry Gill

The Government yesterday firmly dismissed public anxieties about the strength of the Royal Navy's fleet of frigates and destroyers in meeting Nato commitments while maintaining a temporary presence in the Persian Gulf protecting oil tankers.

Its response to a critical report by the Conservative-dominated House of Commons Defence Committee was robust. "The Government has not neglected and has no intention of neglecting the Royal Navy's surface fleet. It is the second most powerful surface force within Nato."

However, between the lines of the report, the Ministry of Defence let it be known that the deliberate diminution of the fleet (excluding submarines, aircraft carriers and smaller ships) has now come to an end, and that it is now committed to a building programme for new frigates and destroyers for the escort fleet that comes very close to the figure of three new orders a year envisaged by the MPs.

The MoD indicated yesterday that the official target of a 50-vessel escort fleet would not be met by prolonging the service life of older ships but by an active policy of ordering new vessels. The recent decision to order three new Type 23 frigates goes even further than the Defence Committee wanted, officials

pointed out. These ships cost between £100 million and £150 million each.

Although the ministry is reluctant to be pinned down to a specific annual target for new ships, it is now officially accepted that "between two and three" new vessels will need to be commissioned each year into the 1990s in order to maintain the fleet's size. Of the 50-vessel fleet between 40 and 43 are available for action at any one time.

In its response the Government confirmed that the Armilla patrol on duty in the Persian Gulf during the Iran-Iraq war had put the Royal Navy under some strain. The fleet's basic posture was its Nato commitment of securing the North Sea against a Soviet breakout, with some spare capacity to assist transatlantic convoys.

Meanwhile, the ministry confirmed last night that they are investigating a deliberate attempt to sabotage engines in Royal Navy submarines. The submarine, the Oberon-class Ocelot, has been undergoing a refit at the Rosyth naval dockyard on the Forth.

Contractors called in the MoD after, it is believed, metal washers were discovered in the Ocelot's engines. Damage is believed to amount to several hundred thousand pounds, although work has now restarted.

Busy tour for Thatcher



The Prime Minister flew off yesterday on what promises to be the most gruelling and hectic foreign tour she has undertaken. Her 10-day journey will take in nearly 27,000 miles, cutting through 18 time zones, visiting 12 cities and landing in seven countries.

The main purpose is to celebrate Australia's bicentenary. She will spend five days there visiting all the major cities. But her tour will also take her to Oman, Bahrain, Malaysia,

Thailand, Singapore, and a seventh country not yet named.

Apart from conferences and commitments, this is her first major trip since she visited Kenya and Nigeria in January. It will be followed by a visit to Poland in October.

The following month she will fly to Washington DC to say her farewells to President Reagan and meet the President-elect for the first time since the United States elections.

Former minister wins top EEC job

By Philip Webster
Chief Political Correspondent

Mr Bruce Millan, the former Labour Secretary of State for Scotland, was named yesterday as Britain's second Commissioner to the European Community.

Mr Millan, aged 60, the MP for Glasgow, Govan, will replace Mr Stanley Clinton Davis, the former Labour minister, whose appointment was not renewed by the Prime Minister in spite of appeals from Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader.

Mr Millan's appointment, which will mean a by-election in a seat where Labour had a 99.9 per cent majority at the last election, comes after discussions earlier this week between Mr Thatcher and Mr Kinnock. Mr Millan was said yesterday to have been Mr Kinnock's "strong recommendation".

The new commission of 17 members takes up office in January. Mr Leon Brittan, the Conservative Home Secretary, has already been appointed Britain's senior Commissioner.

Mr Millan was the Scottish secretary from 1976 until 1979. He had served previously as a junior minister in the Ministry of Defence and the Scottish Office.

He said yesterday that his aim would be to "get the best of Community that would provide prosperity and justice for all its peoples."

Former Scottish Secretary, Mr Millan, was said yesterday to have been Mr Kinnock's "strong recommendation".

Lambeth Conference

Compromise over women welcomed

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Editor

Both supporters and opponents of women's ordination at the Lambeth Conference in Canterbury have thrown their weight behind a compromise formula concerning the consecration of women bishops, it emerged yesterday.

In effect the crucial questions would pass to a special commission of the Anglican Communion, which would report back to the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, possibly some time next year. He is understood to support the idea, although it could eventually put him in a very difficult position.

Two key resolutions to be debated on Monday were published yesterday. The first has the backing of the Mission and Ministry section of the conference, including the Bishop of London, Dr Graham Leonard.

The second, which Dr Leonard also supports, is a private member's motion tabled by the Archbishop of Sydney, Dr Donald Robinson, which urges all provinces of the Anglican Communion

"to refrain from consecrating a woman as bishop".

The 500 bishops at Canterbury also had their first opportunity to see the resolutions concerning future relations with the Roman Catholic church.

The groups which have been studying this are recommending that the conference should endorse two agreed doctrinal reports, on the eucharist and the priesthood. Their resolution also supports the direction taken so far in the study of the "universal primacy" — including the papacy — by the Anglican Roman Catholic International Commission.

It is clear a great deal of hard negotiation, together with a growing sense of friendship and mutual respect between the participants, has gone into the wording of the official resolution on women bishops, in which leading roles were played by Dr Leonard himself and the American presiding bishop, the Rt Rev Edmund Browning.

It is the stated intention of the

American Anglican church to allow a woman to be consecrated as a bishop some time after this conference ends.

The official resolution for Monday is in five parts. It declares that each province should "respect" the decisions and attitudes of other provinces, whether or not they have women bishops.

It asks bishops to remain on good terms to ensure continuing open dialogue and it calls for a commission to be set up to examine relationships between provinces with women bishops and those without. This would advise the Archbishop of Canterbury on maintaining full communion with both types of province.

The draft resolution for Monday's conference ends by recognizing the "serious hurt" to some in the church which would result from the consecration of women bishops.

A request is thought to have been made to the Archbishop of Canterbury for a secret ballot of the bishops on Monday.

Challenge to Dublin deal fails

By Peter Davenport

Two brothers from Northern Ireland who tried to overturn the Anglo-Irish agreement by proving it was against the constitution of the Republic had their case rejected by a judge yesterday.

Mr Michael McGimpsey, aged 40, and his brother Christopher, aged 36, both directors of a family building business, had brought the case before the High Court in Dublin. They are members of the executive committee of the Unionist Party.

Mr Justice Donal Barrington, in a reserved judgement that took an hour to read in court, said that parts of the case fell more in the political field than in the jurisdiction of the courts but that the agreement did not breach the Constitution.

The brothers might appeal. Detectives in Belfast were yesterday still questioning a man aged 29 escorted back to the province on Tuesday after being arrested by metropolitan police officers at Rochester Row police station, south-west London.

Captain accepts grounding

By Michael Horsnell

Captain Brian Walpole, British Airways' senior Concorde pilot, has accepted he will never fly the aircraft again after an incident in which he broke safety rules.

He agreed to a permanent desk job until his retirement at the end of this year after admitting that he infringed regulations on fuel levels.

The grounding comes after an incident in May when Concorde developed a hydraulic fault midway across the Atlantic which required it to

reduce to subsonic speed and so use more fuel than normal. The captain could have diverted to Shannon airport in Ireland but chose instead to fly on to Heathrow. Air traffic control there was asked to give priority landing to the aircraft which was subsequently found to have only 25 minutes worth of fuel left — five minutes less than the half-hour safety limit.

The airline emphasized that none of the 49 passengers was in any danger.

Yesterday Capt Walpole, who was awarded an OBE this year, refused to comment on the grounding which BA said was a sad end to his career. He joined his wife on Wednesday in the United States where she is visiting friends.

Capt Walpole — who piloted Concorde on its inaugural supersonic flight for BA to New York in 1977 — will now concentrate on his desk job as general manager of the airline's Concorde division until he retires on his 55th birthday in December.

High hopes for busiest weekend

By Tim Perry and Boris Johnson

FLIGHTCHECK

Liverpool: A flight from Ypsilanti was 50 minutes late. Later, a few minor delays were cleared within an hour.

Manchester: Air Europe flight to Tenerife and Lanzarote was delayed by one hour 50 minutes and 55 minutes respectively. A Danair flight to Ibiza was held for one hour before take off.

Wales: A Calais flight to Faro was delayed by one hour 45 minutes. The flight was held from Dalaman, Turkey. A British Caledonian flight from Malta was two hours late. Newcastle: No delays. Bristol: No delays.

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Parents jailed over 'unspeakably vile' child sex abuse ring

By Ian Smith

A mother, her former husband and two other men were jailed for between three and 10 years yesterday after a series of rapes and indecent assaults on their children.

The woman, aged 46, who pleaded guilty to aiding and abetting the rape of her daughter, aged four, by holding her down while she was assaulted by her father, was jailed for three years.

The father, aged 40, who was found guilty of raping his daughter and the buggery of his son, aged three, was jailed for 10 years. The maximum sentence for rape is life.

A man, aged 43, was jailed for five years after being found guilty of indecently assaulting his daughter, aged five, his son, aged nine, and his neighbour's sons, aged five and seven.

The neighbour, aged 48, was jailed for seven years after being found guilty of the attempted buggery of his younger son and the buggery of his other son. A six-month suspended sentence for child cruelty imposed at Knutsford Crown Court, Cheshire, last year was enforced consecutively.

Mr Justice Allott told Chester Crown Court that he must impose deterrent sentences because of apparent widespread sex abuse of children.

He said: "Your conduct to any normal parent is unspeakably vile, and yet so we are held to believe it is widespread. It seems incumbent on me to pass deterrent sentences, but I must not be moved

by abhorrence to get the sentences out of proportion." He said they had been found guilty of specimen charges only but his sentencing had to reflect their overall criminality. The men had denied all the charges.

The judge said that the identities of the four accused were being kept secret to protect their children. However, this would not prevent fellow prison inmates from learning quickly of the crimes. He said they could select either solitary confinement or face the daily risk of attack from other inmates.

The sentencing came after two separate trials in the past month, which was the culmination of a six-week joint undercover investigation by the police and social workers at Congleton, Cheshire.

Initially, 19 parents were taken into custody and 17 children into care. All but four parents were subsequently released. Those children not considered at risk were allowed home within 24 hours. Ten children had since been made wards of court.

The court had been told that the man convicted of raping his daughter had been convicted previously of cruelty after shaking his daughter, aged 11 months, from a previous marriage, so violently that her arm was broken. He also had a conviction for luring a girl, aged five, into his home and attempting to behave indecently, the court was told.

Miss Sarah Leigh, for the

prosecution, said the woman was ill with remorse and depression after being corrupted by her former husband. She had instigated the police and social services operation by voluntarily placing her children in care and explaining fully the reasons behind their removal from home.

Mr David Poole, QC, for the defence, said the woman had been terrorized by the malign influence of her former husband. She had lost three stone in weight since having the children placed in care.

He said: "Her life is dominated by feelings of disgust with herself and everything she is. Whatever sentence your lordship imposes, she can hardly sink lower."

Mr Justice Allott commended Det Chief Inspector David Jones and his team of 95 police officers who had worked alongside 50 social workers to investigate the child sex abuse allegations.

He said: "Whatever might happen elsewhere it is evidence that in Cheshire there is the highest co-operation between the police and social workers."

Mr Jones said later that the cases of child abuse in Congleton were the worst he had uncovered. Inquiries were continuing, although it was believed that fears of a child pornography ring operated by parents were groundless.

He said that the abused children, who were in the care of social workers, were receiving special counselling.

Athletes wait for flying start



Yogic flyers practising for their world championships held at Skelmersdale, today (Photograph: Barry Greenwood).

By Ian Smith

Starting blocks and spikes, even running shorts and vests, are thought passed by contestants in the world's most unusual sporting competition which begins today.

Curious spectators will watch "mind athletes" vying for honours in 50 metre races, 25 metre hurdles, high jump and long jump when the Third Annual Yogic Flying Competition proves the ultimate test of mind over matter.

The name of the venue gives away the game. Yogic flying contestants will

gather in the new Maharishi Golden Dome of the Age of Enlightenment in Skelmersdale, Lancashire.

Throughout the day competitors from as far afield as the United States, Canada, Denmark, Germany and Central America will squat motionless inside the specially-built dome awaiting the spectacular moment of maximum brainwave coherence.

When it arrives their bodies will unexplainably rise as high as 27ins in the air for as long as three or four seconds,

for a moment apparently defying gravity.

Why Skelmersdale for such an unearthly event? Expediency and practicality.

To establish headquarters for an eventual 3,000 people dedicated to international peace, homes and jobs and a central location are needed.

Skelmersdale, a new town, offers it all; new industry providing jobs, developers building homes throughout the burgeoning region and motorways.

Man jailed for shooting after robbery

A man was jailed for a total of 21 years at the Central Criminal Court yesterday for gunning down a passing driver who captured him as he fled from an armed robbery.

Armed police surrounded the court as John Kendall, aged 37, described by the judge as a "determined and dangerous man" was sentenced.

Kendall, aged 37, of Kings Court, Plaistow, east London, shot Mr Barry Smith three times at point-blank range, narrowly missing his heart, after robbing a Securicor van of £35,000.

Mr Smith, aged 44, from Welling, south-east London, a gas board official who is also a Territorial Army Marine sergeant, managed to overpower and arrest Kendall.

Mr Smith is to be recommended by Scotland Yard for the George Cross, the highest civilian bravery award.

He and another motorist who gave chase, Mr Donald Bamford, aged 46, a silversmith, have been awarded £250 for their bravery. Mr Smith said afterwards:

"I did not even know I had been wounded at the time."

Kendall was on the run from an eight-year sentence for burglary when he took part in the raid in Kensal Rise, north-west London.

He and an accomplice who had escaped with him from a prison van 18 months earlier threatened guards delivering to Barclays Bank, matched cash and traveller's cheques and escaped on a motor cycle.

Mr Bamford crashed into the motor cycle and Mr Smith drove at Kendall and knocked him down as he ran off. There was a struggle.

In evidence Mr Smith told the court: "Kendall walked towards me with a cash bag in one hand and a pistol in the other. I made my mind up to run him over and accelerated."

"I hit him and he rolled on to the bonnet and over the windscreen and fell to the ground. I got out and we started fighting."

"I thought it was a cap gun he had. I

told him "No way you bastard, you don't frighten me" when he poked the gun into my chest and pulled the trigger.

"I didn't feel a thing and was still convinced it was a toy gun. I started to choke him and took the gun off him."

"By that time I had been shot three times, although I didn't know it."

Mr Smith added: "He pretended to surrender but then made a grab for a second gun which his accomplice had dropped. I tightened my grip on him and he said 'OK, I'm nicked. I give up.'"

"The police arrived and I handed him over."

Yesterday Kendall admitted escaping custody, robbery, possession of a firearm and making use of it to resist arrest. He was jailed for 15 years for the robbery, six years for the firearms offence, to run concurrently, and a further six years for the "callous and deliberate assault on Mr Smith", to run consecutively.

Judge Lyberty also jailed him for two years, to run concurrently, for the escape.

Rude sign cost man his life

A driver was jailed for five years yesterday for mowing down and killing a hitchhiker who made an obscene gesture at him.

Roger Dalley, aged 19, mounted the pavement and rammed his van into into Clifford James, a Royal Navy seaman, aged 19, at nearly 50 miles an hour.

Dalley, his father Robert Dalley and his brother John Dalley, all of Rowde, Wiltshire, started cutting up the vehicle a day later in an attempt to hide the evidence. But when Able Seaman Clifford died days later, Robert Dalley, aged 54, rang the police and confessed.

Roger Dalley, a furniture fitter, was yesterday sentenced to a total of five years youth custody after pleading guilty to manslaughter and attempt-

ing to pervert the course of justice.

John Dalley, a labourer, aged 21, and Robert Dalley, a builder, aged 54, were each sentenced to one year in jail suspended for two years after admitting attempting to pervert the course of justice.

Passing sentence at Bristol Crown Court, Mr Justice Gatehouse told Roger Dalley that what he had done was "appalling".

"You had not the self-control although you were driving along the road to ignore the stupid and probably drunken abuse and gestures", he said.

The court heard earlier that Able Seaman Clifford, and two friends were hitching home in Chippenham, Wiltshire, after playing skittles. They made obscene gestures at motorists who refused to give

them lifts, but when the Dalley brothers drove past the two groups hurled abuse at each other.

Christopher Leigh, prosecuting, said Dalley turned the van around and mounted the pavement. Then he drove "at an increasing speed" behind the sailor and his friends. He ploughed straight into Able Seaman Clifford as the others scrambled clear.

The Dalley brothers and their father later cut up the van with a blow torch and tried to hide the pieces behind their garden shed.

Roger Dalley told police: "The only reason I drove towards them was that I tried to frighten them by making them jump. They were sticking their fingers up and waving - you know, come on and have a go."

Escaper who raped gets seven year term

A teenager who battered and raped a woman and burgled her home after he escaped from detention was sentenced to seven years' youth custody yesterday.

Mr Justice Rougier rejected a defence request for an adjournment for medical reports saying: "I don't think that any cosy chats with psychiatrists are called for."

Gary Thompson, aged 19, of Rutherford Rise, Coulsdon, Surrey, exchanged his detainee's garb for her husband's clothes, the Central Criminal Court, central London, was told.

Thompson was on the run from a detention centre when he arrived in Streatham, south London, in March this year.

He watched as the woman, aged 39, left home to take her children to school and broke in. Mr Brian Barker, for the prosecution, said:

"He battered her repeatedly on the head with his fists and tried to smother her with a pillow, the court was told."

He barricaded her into a cupboard under the stairs and fled with cash, a video recorder and other goods in the family car.

Thompson admitted raping the woman twice, causing her actual bodily harm, falsely imprisoning her, burglary and taking her car.

Jason Jenkinson, aged 16, of Dextre Road, Blackley, Manchester, was sentenced to be detained for four years yesterday at Manchester Crown Court, after he admitted aggravated burglary and raping a nanny at the house where she worked.

The court was told that Jenkinson's parents had questioned him three days after the rape because he was crying and upset. They took him to police.

Killing charge

A youth aged 16 was yesterday remanded in custody for seven days by a special court in Grimsby, charged with the murder of Sharon Standley, aged 14. Her body was found in a playing field near her home in Scarbro on Monday.

False claim

A farmer who lied to obtain a Common Market sheep subsidy was fined £500 by magistrates in Newtown, Powys yesterday. The court was told that Iorwerth Gittins, aged 62, of Brooks, Welshpool was also likely to have a £4,000 subsidy cancelled by the Ministry of Agriculture.

F number plates 'to set record'

By Rodney Cowton
Transport Correspondent

The motor industry faces its most frantic sales period ever, beginning on Monday, when the new "F" registration for car number plates comes into force.

August's sales are expected to pass comfortably the monthly record of 407,000, set in August last year when registrations exceeded 400,000 for the first time.

Between 420,000 and 450,000 registrations are expected, worth up to £3 billion, as car-owners stampede to acquire the status symbol of having a new "F" registration plate at the earliest moment.

August's sales far exceed those of any other month, and will probably turn out at more than 20 per cent of the total annual sales, which are expected by the trade to be 2.1-2.2 million.

The August figure may prove to be not far short of 10 times as great as that for this month, because motorists have been holding back to get the "F" plate.

● Ford car prices are to go up by an average of 2.6 per cent from August 15, the company announced today. Examples of new prices include Fiesta 1.1i, £5,114 compared with £5,010; Sierra 1.6L, £6,999 (£6,826).

£1m game to help the NHS

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

A game is to be launched this autumn which could raise up to £1.5 million a year for charities and the National Health Service.

The gambling game, another contender in the NHS lottery race, is expected "regularly" to pay out prize money of more than £1 million. The organizers, still unnamed, have dubbed the game *Lotto* and claim that there could be 250 new British millionaires by this time next year.

The advertising agency J Walter Thompson is being paid £6 million to market the scheme, which will be directed at 17 million households.

"Lotto promises to create a new millionaire every working day of the year and to raise up to £1.5 billion for the benefit

of the NHS and related charities", the agency says.

Yesterday, Mr Bill Wallace, the account director and senior associate director of JWT, refused to give details of either the game or the client, both to be announced on October 1.

However, he said that the organizers had set up the project purely as a business venture and had no direct links with either the NHS or charities.

A percentage of the money raised by the scheme will be allocated to one-off projects and trustees of the fund will decide regularly how the money should be spent.

Mr Wallace said there was no guarantee that the cash would go to the NHS but the clients intention was to direct

resources to charities and the health service.

"The trust will give a certain amount to allow a series of operations to be carried out from a waiting list or to build a new hospital", Mr Wallace said.

Money could also be used to back British projects such as the £6 billion Hotel spacecraft.

Mr Wallace explained that the new game would get round the difficulties facing the NHS lottery, set up by Lotto Ltd, which was withdrawn on the eve of its launch earlier this summer because it involved an element of skill.

Lotto Ltd is still hoping to launch its lottery, which aims to raise £50 million a year for the NHS.

'Hate mail' store manager jailed

The manager of a Marks & Spencer store who deluged an attractive female colleague with obscene hate mail for more than four years was jailed for 12 months at Chester Crown Court yesterday.

Gerald Lee, aged 47, of St Ann's Road North, Cheshire, Greater Manchester, sent the woman letters containing razor blades, sent her name and address to contact and sex magazines and she was in-

undated with replies, and attacked her car causing nearly £500-worth of damage.

● Former topless model Stefanie Marrian, aged 37, escaped going to jail for pestering her former lover after promising to behave.

In the High Court yesterday Mr Justice Drake said he would take a lenient course and make an order jailing her for 28 days for breach of an order restraining her from

repeatedly telephoning her ex-boyfriend, but suspend it until trial or further order.

● A woman who was obsessed by her bank manager is going to have to wait to be sentenced for assaulting his pregnant wife.

Liverpool Crown Court yesterday adjourned the case of Margaret Gibbons, aged 43, of Kings Mount, Oxted, Birkenhead, Merseyside, for psychiatric reports.

Chinese learn ways of Western crime

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

The Chinese are worried that they are about to catch the British disease of football hooliganism and other Western crime and have called in British experts to help.

Chinese football supporters have already thrown cushions on to the pitch in protest at their team losing, according to Mr Bill Tupman, director of Exeter University's centre for police studies. Matches often draw crowds of up to 80,000.

Now the Chinese want to know what police officers and club officials in Britain have to contend with, how to keep crowds apart and how to prevent rival groups clashing in the street.

Mr Tupman has just returned from a two-week, 6,000-mile lecture tour of China with Mr John Alderson, former Chief Constable of Devon and Cornwall, and Dr Les Johnson, research fellow at

the centre. They were invited by the Chinese Ministry of Public Security, which wants to tap Western expertise on the sort of crime they expect to arrive in China with greater affluence and freedom.

The Chinese want to know how to combat drugs, terrorism and international fraud.

Mr Alderson said: "They do anticipate a drug problem. They do not have one yet, but they are sitting next to the 'Golden Triangle' and it may come with greater affluence as kids can afford drugs."

The Chinese are also faced with the Western dilemma of how to balance freedom and order within the law.

Mr Alderson said: "They are an orderly society, but with more freedom to protest they want to know how to tolerate it without losing what they have suffered

so much to build". Mr Tupman said: "Because there is more private property, there is more to be stolen and theft figures have risen."

"In Peking, the biggest crime is bicycle thefts and they were interested in crime prevention schemes such as marking property."

Yet the humble bicycle thief is likely to be jailed for five years, and many offences carry the death penalty.

The fight against Chinese crime is carried on with the aid of local police and public security committees, through which communities police themselves. However, the Chinese have more than a million police, all of the same rank, and they now want to know about command structures, pay and administration.

The Chinese crime rate is said to be much lower than Britain's and their detection rate to be twice as good.

SUNDAY.

THE SUM

OF THE

PARTS.

JULIUS CAESAR
1952.

'HAMLET' 1934.

'BRIDESHEAD REVISITED' 1981.

'THE SHOES OF THE FISHERMAN' 1968.

'ARTHUR' 1981.

'KING LEAR' 1955.

JOHN GIELGUD
AN ACTOR'S LIFE
31st July & 7th August
at 9.15 pm on Channel 4

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GCSE watchdog to ensure fairness urged by teachers

By Douglas Broom, Education Reporter

The Government was urged yesterday to set up an independent monitoring commission to ensure that the 700,000 fifth-formers taking the GCSE for the first time this year are treated fairly.

The call came from the annual conference of the Professional Association of Teachers in Durham, which gave overwhelming support to a motion calling for improved appeal procedures for parents and pupils.

The results of the first GCSE exams — which replaced O level and CSE from this summer — are due to be sent to schools in four weeks, and exam boards have announced measures to cope with an expected flood of appeals.

Mr Michael Woolstenholmes, a teacher at the Holman Hunt Primary School in South-west London, who proposed the motion, said that

the final year of O level and CSE last year had seen a big rise in appeals.

Delays had built up to the point where pupils had not heard the outcome of their appeals by the time they were due to resit the exam in the autumn. "This must not be repeated," he said.

He called for examination boards to allow teachers and school heads to see copies of the exam papers of pupils who did not do as well as expected. Teachers knew their pupils' capabilities and should play a bigger role in appeals.

Calling for the establishment of an independent assessor and monitoring commission to act as a watchdog on the boards, he said he had seen huge discrepancies between teachers' predicted results and the grades awarded to pupils by examination boards. Under existing appeal procedures the options open

to parents and pupils range from requesting a simple clerical check of marks, costing about £3, to a full-blown appeal to the Joint Council for the GCSE, costing £50. All fees are refundable if the appeal succeeds.

The conference also heard calls for the Government to think again on its decision not to change the law to bar children under 16 from amusement arcades.

In the wake of a report which said the young were not gaming machine addicts, Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, said on Thursday that the law would not be changed.

But Mr Tony Thompson, a lecturer at Walsall College of Technology, said: "The time has come for a legal ban on under-16s in amusement arcades. All the evidence shows that people who become addicted to gambling in later life

became addicted to fruit machines in childhood. A ban on under-16s would strike at the very heart of the problem."

He quoted the example of a pupil aged 17 who had become addicted to playing slot machines at the age of nine. "His mother now sleeps with her purse under her pillow because he constantly thieves from her," he said.

Addition to gambling led to truancy, disruptive classroom behaviour, playground violence, and family stress, he said. "The Government may say that most teenagers are not addicts. But one teenage addict is too many, especially for the family which has to suffer." Mr Thompson's motion on calling for a legal ban on people under 16 visiting amusement arcades was not put to the vote because of lack of time but he claimed widespread backing among delegates.

Regional polytechnic proposed for boom area

By Our Education Reporter

Plans for Britain's first regional polytechnic, covering London and East Anglia, were unveiled yesterday.

The merger would bring together institutions up to 60 miles apart to create one of the country's biggest polytechnics, with 30,000 full and part-time students. It would create Europe's largest business school, and would be particularly strong in construction, art and design, electronics, social sciences and the humanities.

The merger of the City of London Polytechnic, Cambridgeshire College of

Arts and Technology (CCAT) and Essex Institute of Higher Education, catering for the rapidly growing population of East Anglia, could be completed by next April.

A merger between CCAT and the Essex Institute had been under discussion before the City of London Polytechnic, which has been looking to move from its cramped accommodation, entered the field.

Dr William Stubbs, chief executive of the new Polytechnics and Colleges

Funding Council, yesterday described the plan as "a welcome initiative".

He said: "The outcome could provide both an answer to the long-standing demand in the Anglia region for a polytechnic and a consolidation of the substantial connections of the City Poly."

Dr Stubbs urged the institutions to give detailed plans to Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education.

Staff and students have been promised consultation at every stage.

Secrets law headache for new session

By Sheila Gunn, Political Staff

The new batch of Bills drafted for the next session is expected to be as contentious, if less radical, than the Government's major reforms which received the Royal Assent yesterday.

The measures to be included in the Queen's Speech in November go before the Cabinet for final approval in the dying days of this session in October.

The Queen's legislation Cabinet committee, with Mr John Wakeham, leader of the Commons, as chairman, has almost resolved the squabbles between competing ministers over which Bills will have to be shelved for a further year.

The measure causing most worry to the Whips is Mr Douglas Hurd's reform of the secrets law. More work will have to be done in the next three months before the final Bill is drafted.

Mr Hurd is not expected to get his other major Bill covering broadcasting, before Parliament until the 1989-90 session.

Water and electricity privatisation seem certain to cause headaches for Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, and Mr Cecil Parkinson, Secretary of State for Energy.

Mr Ridley will also introduce a reform of the plan-

ning laws and further changes on public-sector housing in a housing and planning Bill.

The most controversial measure from the Department of the Environment is likely to be the short Bill to introduce a national membership scheme for all football fans to foil soccer hooligans.

Reform of the National Health Service is unlikely to be attempted in the next session.

Two social measures which will stir up strong ethical arguments are the reform of child care law and the Bill to implement the main findings of the Warnock report on test-

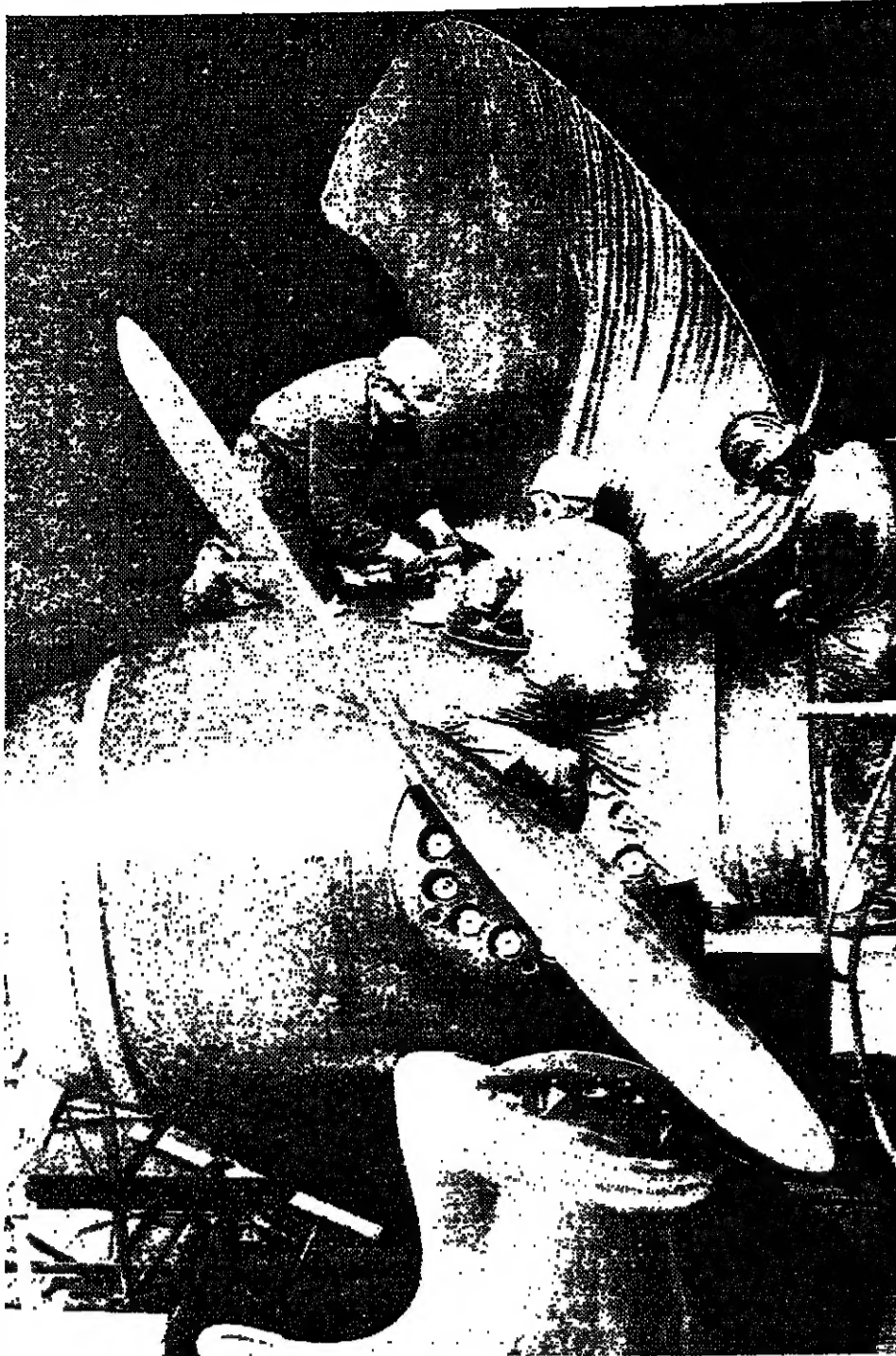
being developed to help childless couples.

Mr Kenneth Baker, the Secretary of State for Education, will not be presenting his controversial measure for introducing student loans.

Other Bills vying for inclusion in the Queen's Speech are changes to the road traffic laws to bring in tougher penalties for drink-driving, and two measures from the Department of Trade and Industry on competition policy and insider dealing.

The Government is also committed to extending the voting rights of Britons abroad and to updating the prevention of terrorism powers.

QE2 ready to face Atlantic



Engineers fitting new propeller blades to the QE2 in Bremerhaven. The liner, which will resume transatlantic crossings from Southampton on Monday, has been beset by problems since a £110 million refit at the West German port a year ago (Photograph: Malcolm Wells).

Detectives investigate murder and suicide

Essex police are trying to discover why Mrs Vanda Griffiths murdered her daughter Jacqueline, aged five, before hanging herself from a beam.

Her husband Donald found the bodies when he came home from work. He found his daughter lying in their bungalow in Ashington Road, Rochford, near Southend, Essex, and his wife, aged 40, in the garage.

A police spokesman said: "It is being treated as a murder and suicide. We are not looking for anyone else."

Fine quashed

Jonathan Denby, a former London solicitor jailed for six months in March, yesterday had his £15,000 fine set aside by the Court of Appeal. He helped one of two wanted brothers involved in an armed hold-up of two policemen in Mayfair in 1986.

Virgin victory

Millionaire Richard Branson's Virgin Atlantic airline has won Civil Aviation Authority approval to operate from Gatwick to Tokyo. Permission was given after British Airways withdrew its objection to Virgin's application.

Train delays

British Rail's 24 new 100mph Wessex Electric trains will not all run until October, it was announced yesterday. Twenty-two of the £1.6 million trains were due to run by May, but problems with the automatic doors meant only eight went into service.

Flying visit

Mr Roger Freeman, Under Secretary of State for the Armed Forces, is to visit Dumfries and Galloway regional and local councillors in the autumn after complaints by the county MP, Sir Hector Moore, about RAF jets buzzing the A74 road.

£3,000 paid

Miss Sharon Smith, aged 28, won £3,000 damages in the High Court yesterday for the shock and depression of becoming paralysed after a surgeon failed to warn her of the risks of an operation at Oldchurch Hospital, Romford, Essex.

Meacher ridicules 'jobs mirage'

By Our Political Staff

A five-point plan to find work for the inner city unemployed was dismissed yesterday as a mirage that will do nothing to solve unemployment.

Mr Michael Meacher, the shadow employment secretary, said the initiatives unveiled by Mr Norman Fowler were merely the same government programmes under a new name. The only

new action is to increase, yet again, the number of fraud inspectors, he added.

"This campaign is a mirage. Mr Fowler has put together a hotch-pot of initiatives announced at least once before in an attempt to appear to be doing something about unemployment."

"It is the most exaggerated example of hype since Mrs

Thatcher said the NHS was safe in her hands."

However Mr Fowler insisted that the package, first disclosed in *The Times*, will improve the provision of employment services for the long-term unemployed.

His announcement followed a survey which disclosed there are 153,000 vacancies in London.

July 29 1988

PARLIAMENT

Government hopes for consensus on secrets law reform

The Government was anxious to get wide agreement on its proposals for reform of the Official Secrets Act, otherwise any proposed legislation was likely to fail, Earl Ferrers, Minister of State, Home Office, told peers.

Opening a debate on the last day of the session on the Government's White Paper on reform of section 2 of the Official Secrets Act of 1911, he said that the Government believed its proposals to be reasonable and effective.

"Our minds are not closed. We will guide everything very carefully."

"If people at both ends of the spectrum of opinion were to pursue their views with unbridled determination, the result would be that no legislation will get through Parliament and the unsatisfactory status quo will be obliged to remain, with all the frustrations that that produces."

Lord Elwyn-Jones, for the Opposition, said that the White Paper did not provide a balance between the need to protect

certain information on the one hand and the rights of free expression on the other. The Opposition feared that the Government's proposals would increase official secrecy.

The proposal that there should be no test of harm in every instance was far too sweeping and unqualified. The principle that all unauthorized disclosure of information by members or former members of the security and intelligence services was never to be justified was also unacceptable.

Lord Hutchinson of Lillingston (SLD), the former cabinet secretary who gave evidence for the Government in the Peier Wright case in Australia, said that the Official Secrets Act had governed his conduct and

curbed his chattering tongue for nearly 40 years.

In the interest of brevity he would try to be economical with words but not, he hoped, with the truth.

It had long been clear that Section 2 of the 1911 Act would no longer do, if it ever would. The section had become virtually unworkable.

The White Paper in general represented an effective, enforceable and reasonable solution to the problems that faced any attempt at reform.

"If we want the governments of allied and friendly countries to keep our secrets, we must show ourselves ready to protect theirs to the best of our ability."

He was sorry that it had been thought necessary to introduce a special offence applicable to the members of the security and intelligence services, but the reasoning was convincing. Their obligation of confidentiality should be lifelong and all those who became members of the security services were well aware of that.

"The proposals...will be welcomed by public servants as bringing clarity and effectiveness without oppressiveness into an area where the existing law is at present oppressive by its very vagueness and uncertainty."

Lord Campbell of Croy (C) said that suggestions that the Soviet Union knew almost everything anyway were irrelevant. It was international terrorist organizations and smaller countries with irresponsible leaders who should not have such information handed to them.

Lord Hemmingsford (Ind), secretary of the Association of British Editors, said that his general worry was about the absolutism in disclosure by the security services and those associated with them: information about telephone tapping and bugging, and on information received in confidence from foreign governments and international organizations.

"Some provision must be made for the possibility that greater harm may be done by the public interest by non-disclosure than by disclosure."

Lord Hunt of Taworth (Ind),



Lord Armstrong: Economical with words, not the truth

a former Secretary of the Cabinet, welcomed the general approach and most of the proposals. It was not fair to represent the White Paper as a tightening up of the law. The law would be more effective in a few areas. But more and larger areas would no longer be protected by the criminal law.

Juries were well placed to decide whether someone had committed a crime but were not particularly well equipped to decide whether disclosure had

done serious damage to the nation's interests.

The need to protect particular operations, techniques and names of those still serving in the secret and intelligence services must remain after retirement.

The blanket prohibition on disclosure of information provided in confidence by other governments or international organizations were "far too sweeping".

Lord Hooson (SLD) said that the proposals did not deserve the euphoric reception they were given when they were first made known. They would silence those who, in some circumstances, had public and national justification for disclosure.

Lord Hatch of Lusby (Lab) said that under the proposals, in a case like the Ponting case, the judge would not send the jury out to consider its verdict. He would order the jury, according to law, to convict. This could be a grave menace.

Lord Blake (C) said that he welcomed the decision not to allow the defence of public

interest which would have allowed the possibility of people escaping the just deserts of their illegal actions.

Lord Greenhill of Harrow (Ind) said that he hoped the Government's faith in juries was not misplaced. Their limitations had given cause for worry, especially in security cases. Lord Kensington of Sowerby (Lab) said that he was not sure that they could carry the requirement of a lifetime silence to the grave, especially if the man lived too long (Laughter). There should be a 30-year period.

"After all, if Cabinet documents can go to the Public Record Office after 30 years, I would have thought that anything that spycatchers have to say will not make much mischief after that time. The people concerned will probably be dead."

Lord Carver said that serving and former members of the security forces must not be allowed to pander to the mania for spy drama and that must also apply to individuals who worked closely with them.

Radical package completed

The Queen's Speech last June heralded the introduction of one of the heaviest and most radical packages of Bills ever presented to Parliament (Sheila Gunn writes). It was greeted with dire warnings of a troubled session. A total of 170 sittings days later MPs and peers left Westminster for their summer holidays with all but a handful to be finished off in the overspill period.

The most far-reaching reforms which have now received the Royal Assent include Local Government Finance Bill, replacing rates with the community charge; the Education Reform Bill, allowing schools to opt out of local authority control, introducing a national core curriculum and regular testing of children, abolishing fees; and the Criminal Justice Bill, strengthening the penalties for drug trafficking and giving a right of appeal against over-sentences.

Still to be completed is the Housing Bill, reviving the private rented sector; the Health and Medicines Bill, including charges for eye tests and dental examinations; and the Firearms (Amendment) Bill, tightening the firearms laws. The following Acts received Royal Assent: Appropriation; Finance; Community Health Councils (Access to Information); Licensing (Retail Sales); Landlord and Tenant; Malignant Communications; Access to Medical Records; Protection of Animals (Amendment); Environment and Safety Information; Protection Against Cruel Treatment; Civil Evidence (Scotland); Legal Aid; British Steel; Court of Session; Criminal Justice; Electricity (Financial Provisions) (Scotland); Education Reform; Local Government Finance; Solicitors (Scotland); Eastbourne Harbour; Tor Bay Harbour (Open Cove and Foreshore); University of Wales College of Cardiff; Imperial College; and British Waterways; County of South Glamorgan (Taff Crossing); and the Church of England (Ecumenical Relations) Measure.

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BR seeks early sale of catering

The Government expected British Rail's catering arm, Travellers' Fare, to be sold to the private sector by the end of the financial year. Mr Michael Forde, the new Minister of State for Transport, told MPs. He said that British Rail was inviting bids for Travellers' Fare up to the end of September.

Mr Keith Mans (Wre, C), who opened a debate on the future of BR, said that it should be reduced to a national track authority by selling off the rolling stock, stations and some of the signalling to private enterprise.

The railway was one of the great monopolies left in the public sector. It was produced and relatively inefficient. By the provision of more private capital and the introduction of a consumer-oriented management, British Rail would be transformed.

Once BR had become a track authority it would be advisable to make it a public limited company.

Mr Portillo said that at present the Government had no plans to privatize British Rail but it was constantly reviewing the long-term options. The immediate priority was to improve the service to customers.

The traditional all-night sitting on the Consolidated Fund Bill at the end of the session ended at 8.29am.

Attack on vice-chancellor

Socrates would have had scathing words to describe the harsh treatment of his fellow philosopher, Mr Edgar Page of Hull University, Mr Kevin McNamara (Hull North, Lab) said in an adjournment debate. The attempt to dismiss Mr Page was "foolish and unnecessary."

Mr Robert Jackson, Under Secretary of State for Education, refused to intervene in the case. These were matters for civil society and autonomous institutions to decide, he said. He congratulated Hull University for the "determined and effective way" in which it was addressing its problems.

Mr McNamara said that Hull University was attempting retrospectively to deny tenure to its existing staff and to dismiss Mr Page, whose only sin was to be 57 years old. "One wonders how Socrates or Plato would have fared in Hull."

Mr Page had been singled out by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor William Taylor, who at 58 was

at the peak of his career. He had been told to take early retirement or be dismissed. This action was foolish because it was clearly quite unnecessary.

At the same time Professor Taylor was actively recruiting new staff. His hire-and-fire policy had caused great unease and bitterness among staff. "Mr Page was not sacked because Hull could not afford to keep him but because the managerial style with which Professor Taylor expects to impress the Prime Minister demanded it."

The Association of University Teachers had called for an academic boycott of the University until the decision was reversed. Serious damage had already been done to Hull's academic reputation.

He asked Mr Jackson to tell the University Grants Committee to delay changes until the completion of the review of university philosophy teaching. This would protect Mr Page.

Mr Jackson said that "strictly speaking" none of this was the

Government's business. In 1688 the concept of the limited state had prevailed and had established the British tradition of a limited state with a limited role in relation to the great institutions of civil society.

It was not for the Government to take up the case of an individual. "Our job is to provide the financial support to the republic of letters on whatever scale seems appropriate and within the limits of affordability, and this we do." As many philosophers were practising in 1988 as in the whole of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, when Britain had made its greatest contribution to philosophy.

"It remains the responsibility of the academic community to sustain and carry forward into the future the disciplines which they profess. Effective management of the resources for higher study cannot be evaded. It is not for me to specify the measures in which this effective management must consist."

Call for NHS lottery

Billions of pounds could be raised for the National Health Service through a national lottery, Mr Simon Burns (Chelmsford, C) said during a debate in the Commons.

The success of recent national fund-raising efforts, such as Live Aid, showed that Britain was a nation of givers. Local lotteries had started as a great success, but income had declined because they were too small. A

national scheme would be a big attraction.

Mrs Edwina Currie, Under Secretary of State for Health, said that the health service already received a considerable income from gambling through various local activities and a national lottery might divert some of that cash. Income from a national lottery would be unpredictable and would therefore be difficult to relate to long-term spending plans.

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Charmed life of the drug dealing Oxford rogue

For Howard Marks, the road to international criminal notoriety began in Oxford in the mid-Sixties. Now, London talks to some of the people who succumbed then to the roguish charm that went wrong.

Nobody called him Dennis. His friends heard that name only when it was read aloud in court, followed by a list of charges; or when he was named on news bulletins, as he was this week, and filmed with handcuffs stepping out of a police vehicle. To those who knew him he was always Howard.

His name came up regularly at lunches and dinners. If you knew the members of a certain set in London — quite well placed, just off the centre of power, a set dominated by Oxford and Sussex graduates, many of them academics, many in the media and none a shining success — you would often hear the name of Howard Marks.

"Have you heard what Howard is up to now?" they would say, with the wry smile which goes with the latest venture of Jack the Lad — and it might have been Howard's idea of selling bottled Welsh water in Gulf states, or his ownership of a massage parlour and brothel in the Far East. Among those who had stayed in London for the sake of the children, in the hope of promotion, for love of a Neff cooker, Howard's name rang down the decades with the charm of youth and adventure, with licence, liberty, indulgence, wealth and wantonness.

"I've known him since 1963 or '64," said a man, "and I can't think of any occasion in the last 25 years when I didn't feel better for having seen Howard

Howard Marks (right), the Englishman arrested in Majorca five days ago as a massive international drugs ring in on moved under armed guard to a top security jail in Madrid early yesterday (Howard Foster writes).

The secret transfer angered Marks' legal representatives, who were not told of his departure from Palma until he was about to be put on board a ship bound first for Barcelona.

Police in Majorca were last night trying to break codes on two sophisticated pocket computers seized at his home. The computers may hold details of Marks' organization, including telephone numbers of couriers and inter-

national contacts and, more importantly, the whereabouts of the millions of dollars he and his gang are said to have made from exporting hashish to the US for more than a decade.

Spanish police also said that a second house belonging to Marks had been found in Palma Nova. It had been let out to a group of homosexuals who held wild parties there, officers said.

After arriving in Barcelona, Marks and a co-defendant, William Reeves, an American, were expected to be flown to Madrid before being taken to the high security Alcazarras prison.

Mrs Judith Marks and Geoffrey Kenyon are still being held in Palma prison. Marks' solicitor, Mr Michael

read physics. Though not "hip" he was accepted by those who were. They took him in. He charmed them. They loved him.

"To understand what he accomplished, you have to get to grips with his charm as a seducer," one old Oxford friend said. "He was extremely engaging and people liked to do things for him. He was the most amusing bloke around at the time and he attracted a very wide circle of friends."

"He was a big, red-faced, boisterous Welsh boy who liked beer, dancing and girls." At parties, he did good impersonations of old Elvis and young Mick Jagger and did his best to sing in his own voice with rock and roll bands. I remember thinking, even then, that if he couldn't be a rock and roll star, he was bound to end up on the wrong side of the law. He was always going to need a very

great deal of money because he liked to spend it and he was exceedingly generous.

That friend reckons that Howard Marks "must have left Oxford colossal in debt. He certainly wasn't dealing dope in any kind of a big way then — if at all."

His Oxford friends agree that he was one of the people who could be depended upon to have a small supply of marijuana and to share it generously; they also agree that supplies and use of marijuana among undergraduates were very limited between 1963 and 1966 and that Howard Marks' favourite drugs of the time were a pint of beer and a packet of Player's in a pub.

At Sussex in the later Sixties, Howard Marks penetrated an altogether different group of people which, again, he dominated and captivated. Arriving in Brighton with his first wife Ilse (an

effervescent woman of Latvian birth who later married the literary agent Michael Sissons), Howard Marks entered a high society of tight friendships and sexual relationships. The purchase and use of large quantities of illegal drugs was a central activity: Howard went into selling.

By the end of the decade and the beginnings of the Seventies, when those Sussex friends were mostly in London, they all had BMW 2002's — all the same orange. They had answering machines and Olympus cameras and IBM golfball typewriters and furs and records and antique furniture and they snorted coke and drank white Burgundy while they played Go or chess. They were not, however, upwardly mobile: they were just rich.

"He became the role model for a set," says a friend who knew him then.



"Having been at Oxford gave him the credentials to join that set which was very un-studentish. Everybody was pretty well-heeled and they used to do a lot of things that normal students couldn't afford."

Howard Marks was, apparently, naturally fued by nature and talent to the business of drug dealing. "He always loved organizing card indexes and you can be quite sure that his business systems would be a model."

"His only weakness as a businessman is that he's not a very good judge of character. That would be a serious weakness in any business: in drugs' dealing it could be fatal."

Whatever may be the truth about his most recent alleged activities, it is clear that Howard Marks was making a great deal of money out of drugs' dealing in the early years of the Seventies, after he set up the shop called Annabelina in Oxford, through which proceeds were laundered.

Though everybody knew, it would seem that he never told his friendly directly about the trade in which he was engaged, except that he frequently told them that he was not dealing in heroin.

They were not at all surprised by his previous arrests and court appearances, even by the more bizarre and far-fetched allegations and explanations. Yet they were all surprised, they say, to hear that he had been arrested this week and accused again of drugs' dealing.

"I always thought he was far too clever to be caught," said a man. "On the other hand, there's a have been no fun in it for Howard if nobody had ever known what he was doing."

Barristers to examine right to trial by jury

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The 900-strong Criminal Bar Association is to examine whether the time has come to restrict the right of defendants in certain cases to choose trial by jury.

The association is setting up a committee on the issue, which has come to the fore recently with the disclosure that such curbs are being looked at by senior officials in the Lord Chancellor's Department.

Mr David Cocks, QC, chairman of the association, said: "I would like to make clear that the policy of this association is and always has been against any further curtailment of the right to elect jury trial."

That policy not only prevailed within the association but was the case outside it.

Referring to the failure of governments to restrict the right to jury trial for another theft, he added: "No government has dared to touch this issue with a bargepole. It is so sensitive." But there was now a feeling in the association

Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the former Lord Chancellor, discloses today why he has no regrets about never having been Prime Minister.

Lord Hailsham, aged 80, who served under seven Prime Ministers, says: "Nobody but a fool would want to be Prime Minister, and nobody but a coward would refuse it."

He says in an interview in this week's *Woman* magazine: "The only thing I feel confident about is that under me we would have won the 1964 election."

that the issue should be looked at again.

There is strong opposition within the criminal Bar to tinkering with the right to jury trial, but some senior barristers are known to be in favour of some curtailment for minor offences.

Already, Mr Nicholas Purnell, QC, vice-chairman of the influential association, has expressed his personal view that the right to jury trial

should be curbed in minor cases of dishonesty, possession of soft drugs and offensive weapons.

Such curbs are being examined by the Lord Chancellor's Department with a view to tackling an acute shortage of circuit judges. There is concern over the growing mismatch between the workload of the crown court and judicial manpower available.

The Law Society is against any curbs, but many judges, magistrates and justices' clerks would support a move to take some minor cases out of the crown court.

There is also concern within the society that although solicitors are eligible for the circuit bench, senior judges are believed to oppose increasing numbers of solicitor-circuit judges. At present, such judges account for one tenth of the 400-odd circuit judges.

Sir Derek Bradbeer, retiring president of the society, has called on the Council of Judges to make clear that view is not now held by the judges.

Judge to report lawyers over delay

A firm of solicitors acting for a man held in prison for months while waiting for a place at a secure hospital are to be reported to the Law Society by a Central Criminal Court judge.

Mr Justice Roulger yesterday said he was "disgusted" at the case of an arsonist, said to be severely mentally ill, who had been kept in jail since last August. He adjourned the hearing without an intended

hospital order because the legal firm of Duthie, Hart and Duthie, Greengate, of Barking Road, Plaistow, east London, had not arranged for a doctor to come to court.

Throwing down his pencil, the judge said: "I think it is disgraceful, absolutely disgraceful."

He added that it was wrong that "persons who are obtaining part of their professional income from the legal aid fund

should be so blind to the basic requirements of a case of this kind."

"We are here for the third time. I propose to refer the matter to the Law Society. I am disgusted."

Peter Cherry, aged 30, set fire to his east London council flat in August last year because he believed aliens were coming out of his television screen and attacking him. He pleaded guilty to arson last December.

£275,000 payoff for RIBA man



Golden goodbye: Patrick Harrison enjoying retirement at his home in north London yesterday (Photograph: Chris Harris).

A settlement of about £275,000 was paid to Mr Patrick Harrison, the secretary of the Royal Institute of British Architects, who resigned last year after a consultant's report criticized the organization's "bad management and inefficiency".

Members of the institute's ruling council, who were told the amount in camera early this year, yesterday confirmed the figure, which has never been officially disclosed.

Mr Harrison's settlement was one of three "major and exceptional areas of expenditure" in 1987 which led to a total deficit for the institute of £1.2 million, as reported in *The Times* yesterday.

The settlement is included in a figure of £417,000 shown in the 1987 accounts

for the costs of the management consultant's report and the "initial implementation of its recommendations".

Mr Harrison, aged 60, joined the institute in 1968 from the Scottish Development Department, where he was a principal. He was awarded a CBE in 1982.

He said yesterday that there was an understanding with the institute that the details of the settlement would remain confidential. They should only be disclosed by resolution of the Council and with his agreement.

The settlement is believed to be made up of a cash payment of £100,000 and pension rights of £175,000. When he resigned from the institute, after 19

years, he was earning about £50,000 a year. The institute declined to comment on the settlement.

The consultants, Hay Management, said in their report that RIBA was "much worse run than other organizations we've come across".

Mr Harrison immediately tendered his resignation, which was accepted by the council.

Mr Max Hutchinson, president-elect of the institute, said yesterday: "Although the amount of the settlement is a confidential matter by agreement, it is clearly shown in the accounts as part of the Hay exercise. Everybody is aware of the initial implementation stage of their recommendations."

Appeal on gun rules rejected

Two High Court judges ruled yesterday that a firearms certificate was valid only in respect of the gun for which it was issued and not to any similar weapon the holder might obtain as a substitute.

Lord Justice Mann and Mr Justice Henry dismissed an appeal by Mr Geoffrey Wilson, a registered firearms dealer, against three convictions of selling or transferring guns to customers who did not have valid certificates.

The customers held certificates for guns which they exchanged for 22 rifles or pistols at Mr Wilson's shop in Callington, Cornwall.

One owner's gun was in for repair and another was taken on loan, the second customer agreed a part-exchange, and the third returned a pistol taken on trial and received another to test.

Mr Wilson, given a conditional discharge by Liskeard magistrates last year, appealed to the High Court arguing that he did not breach the Firearms Act 1968, because in each case the new gun was of the same type as that replaced and was therefore covered by the same certificate.

The judges ruled the original weapon only in each case was covered, meaning gun owners must apply to the police for a variation of their certificates before they can acquire replacements.

Later, Mr Wilson, a member of the Gun Trade Association, said he would consider taking his case to the House of Lords. "This decision is a blow against legitimate shooters and firearms dealers."

Law Report, page 37

Classics conference

Myth as good as a mile in the literary odyssey

By Philip Howard, Literary Editor

The biggest questions in literature are about inextinguishable Homer. Dr Oliver Taplin, of Magdalen College, Oxford, gave assembled classicists at Oxford yesterday some lively and persuasive new answers.

Dr Taplin has been looking for fundamental structural divisions in the *Iliad*, as opposed to later slices of convenience, such as the 24 books.

He believes he has found only two such organic junctures, between books nine and 11 (the Doloneia in Book 10 gets the thumbs down as an interpolation), and somewhere before

the beginning of Book 19. Near the beginning and end of these movements, he has found significant recurrent links. For example, scenes of ransom and hospitality, and temporal indicators about nightfall and the rosy-fingered new day.

Dr Taplin calculates that these movements would have taken nine hours 30 minutes, nine hours and six hours 40 minutes respectively to perform. He argues for a performance on three successive days. After all, the poem was created for performance, probably for a sacred festival.

What audience might be especially pleased by the *Iliad*? Dr Taplin specu-

lates romantically that the landscape and description of the home ground in the poem were given a local particularity to please the audience.

Was the *Iliad* first performed at a festival in the Troad, where voyagers can still see the tomb of Hector?

A myth is as good as a mile up a Greek mountain. Dr Richard Buxton, of Bristol University, explored imaginary Greek mountains. Where we cry, "To the woods", the ancient Greeks said: "To the mountains".

Mountains had many uses in ancient Greece: for wood and stone, for hunting, for refuge and for sanctuary. Greek myths recount the

role of the mountains as refuges, places for fire beacons and home of the gods. But myths also reflect reality, transforming it by exaggeration and clarification.

Mountains are outside and wild, the homes of centaurs and sphinxes. They were there before the rest of the world and the civilization of tongue.

They are also places for reversals, where distinctions of the city collapse, metamorphoses happen, females hunt and almost anyone goes mad. Myths and the real world met in Greek ritual, which exploited as symbolic drama the contrast between the two.

Letters, page 11

Prison riots force admissions review

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Procedures for the allocation of prisoners to low-security jails is to be changed in the wake of riots at Haverigg and Lindholme prisons.

An inquiry by Mr Gordon Lakes, deputy director general of the Prison Department, found that small numbers of determined troublemakers sparked the disturbances.

Twelve members of staff and three prisoners were slightly hurt during rioting at Haverigg, Cumbria, last June and 18 prisoners reported minor injuries after trouble at Lindholme, near Doncaster, earlier this month.

Mr Lakes recommended better contingency plans and a revision of security arrangements. There is also to be a further review of security in converted camps, of allocation procedures, and monitoring of prison populations.

Both riots happened in

converted camps, classed as "Category C", for prisoners who cannot be trusted in an open prison but who do not have the ability or the resources to make an escape attempt.

Dr Stephen Shaw, director of the Prison Reform Trust, yesterday challenged the findings as outlined in a parliamentary written answer by Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary.

Dr Shaw said that there were not only riots at Lindholme and Haverigg, but an earlier one at Rolleston, Wiltshire, also a converted camp and "Category C" prison.

The pressure on the prison system had meant that some prisoners were being improperly categorized as Category C simply because it was easier to find places for them in Category C prisons, he said.

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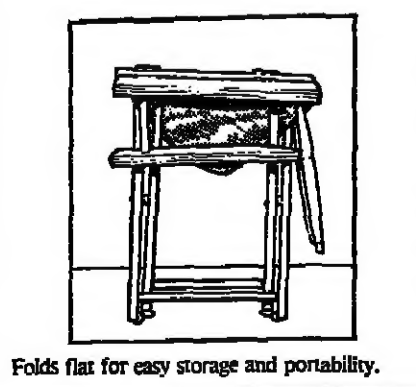
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Afghanistan security fears

Britons set to leave Kabul in wake of rocket attacks

By Andrew McEwen, London, and Karan Thapar, Kabul

Spouses and children of Britons working in Afghanistan are to be evacuated next week after increased rocket attacks on Kabul by Mujahidin guerrillas.

The Foreign Office said it had advised the small British community of 45 people that dependants and non-essential staff should leave as soon as possible. Most families are understood to have accepted the advice and to have booked flights next week.

Another 52 people of other nationalities who are technically under British protection have been given the same advice. Britain represents 10 nations in Afghanistan, including Australia, New Zealand and Finland.

The Foreign Office said that no one under its protection had been injured in the attacks so far. The new advice goes beyond previous warnings which were given to people intending to travel to Afghanistan. They were told it would be better not to go.

At least three other European countries with their own embassies in Kabul are taking the same line. Several Middle East nations and at least one Asian country are also reported to be sending dependants home.

The West German Foreign Ministry said earlier this week that it was considering reducing non-essential staff in Ka-

bul. The French Embassy was hit by a rocket last Saturday, but no one was injured. An embassy official said that no staff had yet been sent home, but many were out of the country on holiday.

The Mujahidin have been increasing attacks on the capital with 122mm Chinese-made rockets, stepping up the pressure on the Afghan Government as its direct Soviet support declines.

According to some accounts the first foreign dependants could begin returning home by the middle of August. Under the agreement reached in Geneva in May, the Soviet Union is due to have removed half its troops by August 15 and the remainder by February 15 next year.

The diplomatic evacuation plans follow hard on the heels of what at least one source described as "the most dramatic week" of Mujahidin rocket attacks on the capital. According to diplomats between 170 to 200 Egyptian and Chinese-made 122mm rockets were fired on Kabul between July 16 and 23, killing perhaps as many as 80 people. There were 123 rocket attacks in the preceding three weeks.

The removal of diplomatic dependants is also a response to their own increasing vulnerability in the crossfire. The rocket that landed in the French Embassy compound,

last Saturday imbedded itself in a fuel tank which, however, did not explode. A second rocket narrowly missed the American Chancery.

On July 6, a rocket exploded within the gardens of the German club. The flying shrapnel and glass splinters injured a journalist who was staying there.

With the exception of the American and Pakistani missions, all other Embassy staff in Kabul are believed to have their dependants with them. And virtually all are now considering removing them within the next month, or soon after.

Even the Indians, who in May hosted a State visit by President Najibullah, have let it be known that the Indian school in Kabul will consider closing in December, by when most diplomats expect the Soviet troop withdrawal to have been completed.

With the exception of the East German Ambassador, all the other East European ambassadors are out of the country, and many of them are believed to be on extended leave. Their Western counterparts doubt whether many will be willing to keep their families in Kabul for long when they return.

The security warning was also issued to British, American and Scandinavian missionaries, who are members of

the International Assistance Mission in Kabul, and are working as medical experts at the Noor hospital.

The Noor Hospital was one of the victims of last week's rocket fire. The mission has been advised by Western embassies that its members should consider leaving Kabul while they can.

A bi-weekly Indian Airlines flight to Delhi is the only secure route out of the capital other than flying via the Soviet Union. As yet there is no immediate prospect of its suspension.

A few diplomats are, however, anxious to explain that the evacuation plans and security alerts are nothing more than "a sensible and practical precautionary measure".

"These plans and warnings are not a red alert," one Western diplomat explained. "But they are a yellow alert. A sensible caution."

The diplomats conceded that the French Embassy and the German club were in danger primarily because of their location.

The embassy shares a wall with the People's Palace, where the President's office is located and where Soviet and Afghan troops are stationed, and is also within 250 yards of the Foreign Office and the Central Committee building. The club is a couple of hundred yards from a small



Wounded Afghans waiting in a Red Cross tent in Quetta, Pakistan, where hospitals are already overcrowded.

bill which is widely believed to be an important ammunition store.

This week, after the spate of rocket attacks, security in and around Kabul has been stepped up. Soviet artillery and armour has reappeared at Karga lake and dam, near the capital's golf course, and

within a few miles of the Mujahidin positions at the Paghman hill resort, from where many of the rockets are believed to have been fired.

On Friday, a public holiday when Karga should normally have been crowded with picnickers, armed soldiers were instead barring access to

the lake. Soviet soldiers and equipment have been sighted at Shaewaki, south of Kabul.

As August 15 approaches, and if it continues to look as if the Soviet Army will meet its deadline for a 50 per cent withdrawal, the concern about security and, more importantly, the future of the

country, will give way to tension and anxiety.

For the one factor that seems clear from discussion with diplomats in Kabul is that, seen from the capital, the chances of the Najibullah government surviving the Soviet withdrawal are fast diminishing.

Soviet human rights head seeks pardon for religious prisoners

From A Correspondent, Moscow

The head of the Soviet Union's government-sponsored human rights commission said yesterday that his organization planned to ask the Supreme Soviet, the country's Parliament, to pardon all prisoners "condemned under articles connected with the performance of religious rites".

Mr Fyodor Burlatsky, the head of the Public Commission on Humanitarian Questions and Human Rights, set up last year to show Soviet good faith in dealing with human rights issues, gave no reason why the group would ask for the pardons.

Instead he used terms such as "convicts" and "so-called dissenters" to refer to those jailed under the country's draconian laws used to suppress dissent.

"I do not see obstacles to the implementation of this request, the more so since there has already been a precedent. I mean the pardon of so-called

dissenters," he said. He was referring to the February, 1987, Supreme Soviet decree that led to the release of almost 200 political prisoners.

Scores of those releases were delayed for months because prisoners refused to sign documents admitting their guilt and asking for a pardon. In the end the Soviet authorities relented and freed them without demanding what amounted to confessions of guilt.

In his remarks Mr Burlatsky never hinted that those jailed for religious beliefs were behind bars unjustly. The exact number of people held in Soviet jails on religious grounds is unknown.

Meanwhile, after months of mass demonstrations in Armenia and scores of smaller protests in Moscow and Leningrad, the Soviet Government has decided to enforce laws forbidding such protests without explicit consent of local authorities. The new regulations contained in a Supreme Soviet decree pub-

lished earlier this week clearly demonstrates that *glasnost* does have its limits, especially when it comes to public expression of dissent.

Mr Aleksandr Vlasov, the Soviet Interior Minister responsible for police and internal security, yesterday praised the Supreme Soviet decree reinforcing existing limits on freedom to hold public protests. But it was this decree restricting such protests that is expected to have serious long-term repercussions on Mr Mikhail Gorbachev's liberalization policies.

Mr Vlasov in an interview with Tass said most unauthorized street demonstrations posed a serious threat to law and order and stirred up "anti-social passions" dangerous to the state. He was commenting on the Supreme Soviet decree which states that no spontaneous protests are permitted in public places under Soviet law and all requests to hold a

public demonstration must be submitted to local government authorities 10 days in advance by the organizers of the protest.

"The Soviet (local council) can prohibit an assembly, meeting or demonstration the purpose of holding of which contradicts the constitution of the Soviet Union, the constitutions of the union and autonomous republics or poses a threat to public order and the safety of citizens," the controversial Supreme Soviet decree said.

The terms of the decree can be interpreted in such a broad manner that virtually any protest can be deemed to be a threat to public order giving police a free hand to crush it.

The decree comes after months of massive street demonstrations in Yerevan involving hundreds of thousands of people demanding the return of the Nagorno-Karabakh enclave, presently ruled by neighbouring Azerbaijan, to Armenia.

UN chief counters fears that Gulf peace hopes are fading

By Our Diplomatic Correspondent

The New York talks on a ceasefire in the Gulf War resumed yesterday, but the optimism of officials and observers at the United Nations had largely evaporated.

Señor Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the UN Secretary-General, sought to counter the change of mood by saying he was very pleased because "things are moving in the right direction". In reacting to reports of a deadlock, he went beyond his more cautious earlier remarks in which he said he was hopeful rather than optimistic.

The main obstacle continues to be a demand by Iraq for direct talks with Iran. Tehran has refused on the ground that Security Council Resolution 598, which both sides have accepted, does not call for such negotiations.

Tehran Radio quoted Dr Ali Akbar Velayati, the Foreign Minister, as saying that direct talks were possible after a ceasefire if Señor Pérez de Cuéllar requested them. But

Baghdad wants the talks to be held first, as a precondition for a ceasefire.

The Secretary-General was in a determined mood before beginning talks with Dr Velayati yesterday, saying he would "keep trying until the end, and the end is very far," and chiding those who ques-

tioned why, after seeing Dr Velayati three times earlier in the week and his Iraqi counterpart, Mr Tariq Aziz, only twice, he had not arranged to see the Iraqi minister next.

Envoys of the five permanent members of the Security Council (the US, Britain, France, the Soviet Union and China) called on the Iraqi

Foreign Ministry in Baghdad on Thursday to urge Iraq to soften its position and start discussing a date for a ceasefire.

Meanwhile, Tehran claimed it recaptured three towns in western Iran seized earlier in the week by the Iraq-based Iranian opposition force, the

New York (Reuters) - The Security Council yesterday unanimously condemned the abduction last February of Colonel William Higgins, a US Marine serving as a UN observer in Lebanon, and demanded his immediate release. It also called on member states to use their influence to secure his release. Colonel Higgins's wife, Robin, was present when the resolution was adopted. The Security Council also approved a six-month extension of the mandate of the UN Truce Supervision Force in Lebanon.

National Liberation Army. It said its forces were chasing the rebels and Iraqi troops back towards the border.

The National Liberation Army, which is the military wing of the Mujahedin opposition, acknowledged that it had withdrawn from the towns of Islamabad Gharb and Karand after holding them for 72 hours. It said it

was pulling back to the frontier to prepare for a further thrust into Iran.

But it originally said it planned to advance another 30 miles to take Kermanshah, known in Iran as Bakhtar.

Iran said its forces killed 4,500 Iraqi and rebel troops in retaking Islamabad Gharb, Karand and Gilan Gharb. Tehran Radio said the offensive was supported by jets, helicopters and warships.

The Iranian news agency, IRNA, reported heavy fighting in the area between the recaptured towns and the border and said its forces destroyed "200 enemy tanks and 700 personnel carriers".

Iraq has denied involvement in the rebel operations, claiming it is withdrawing from Iranian territory.

UN military experts who arrived in Tehran on Tuesday to study the implementation of a ceasefire were expected to travel on to Baghdad yesterday and return to New York next Tuesday.

Bickering halts progress on European security

By Andrew McEwen

There should have been smiles and handshakes at the seemingly endless Vienna security talks yesterday, but instead there was frustration and bickering as an important target date was missed.

After 21 months, a small army of diplomats attending the review of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe failed again in the Austrian capital to achieve its self-imposed target for agreement on a wide range of issues.

A British official commented resignedly: "No one was ever very sanguine about that target. We were originally supposed to finish on the same date last year."

The most important element

is a mandate for a new forum called the Conventional Stability Talks, which will bring together all 16 Nato nations and the seven Warsaw Pact countries. The wish was that they would start work in the autumn. But that prospect is fading because of an unrelated disagreement over human rights. If the hopes of reducing conventional forces in Europe did not depend on the final document, the 35 nations talking in Vienna would have drifted off yesterday to begin the summer holiday.

Instead, they agreed yesterday to delay the talks, but unless there is rapid progress, a decision will be taken next Wednesday to head for the beach. The West Germans and French argued that the talks



Herr Genscher: Impatient, over block to new forum.

were too important to adjourn, but were persuaded by the other Nato countries to relax.

The immediate result is that the Stability Talks process remains stuck at the "talks about talks" stage. It could be

years before the first soldiers are withdrawn from Central Europe. Until that happens there will be no cuts in either tactical or short-range nuclear weapons.

The wider implication is that confidence could be harmed. The Stability Talks have been seen as an opportunity to make a fresh start. They are due to replace the fruitless Mutual Balanced Force Reduction talks, which began in Vienna during 1973 and are still under way.

But the delay will reinforce fears that the Stability Talks could suffer the same fate as their predecessor, flawed by the absence of four Nato members, including France.

But the new forum holds greater promise. A stream of

proposals - from Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, from the Warsaw Pact as a whole, and from the Nato foreign ministers - have shown a political will to reduce troops, tanks and artillery in Central Europe. But there is disagreement over a Warsaw Pact demand that "dual-capable" artillery, able to fire both nuclear and conventional shells, ought also to be considered.

No one has been more impatient over the delay than Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, who has urged both sides to settle their differences so that the new forum can begin its work. Bonn is under domestic pressure to bring about a reduction

in tactical and short-range nuclear weapons, because in a war they would be used in East and West Germany.

Herr Genscher flew to Moscow yesterday for talks with Mr Gorbachev today, making him the first Western politician to see the Soviet leader since his latest initiative on conventional weapons, announced during a Warsaw Pact summit two weeks ago, when he called for a pan-European summit.

Whitehall primarily blames Romania for the human rights logjam. Bucharest refused to accept further commitments beyond those agreed at Helsinki in 1975. This prevented a draft final document being approved, since unanimity is required.

US steps up the war against drugs

Cocaine blights a city in the sun

From Michael Binyon, Washington

The smashing of the Marks drug ring, one of the world's largest hashish and marijuana smuggling operations, barely made a few paragraphs in Miami's newspapers. It was another routine drug story - one of many reported every day.

Despite Miami's notoriety as the drug capital of America, its citizens have become inured to the gun battles, corruption, money laundering and "crack" dealing that has blighted whole neighbourhoods in this city in the sun.

In any case, Marks was only smuggling hashish; and the real killer in Miami is cocaine. Far more attention has been given to the conviction of five members of a cocaine ring who shipped drugs through Cuba with the connivance of Cuban authorities - the first hard proof that Havana has had a hand in the evil trade, despite President Castro's vigorous denials.

The grim statistics tell the story. Last year Miami police and drug enforcement officers seized 68,200 lb of cocaine - 80 per cent of all the cocaine seized in America. So far this

year they have seized over 86,000 lb, and predict that the total will reach 100,000 lb by the end of the fiscal year in October.

On the street the price of cocaine has fallen from \$35,000 (£20,600) a kilo five years ago to about \$15,000 now - clear evidence that ever more is pouring onto the market. One in every 17 people applying for a government job in Miami was rejected last year because he or she was found to be a drug user. The police have just decided not to allow addicts to remain in the force - but until now even policemen testing positive were given a second chance. The latest uproar is not over more drugs coming in, but the use of undercover drug "spies" to inform on drug users in city employment.

The Drug Enforcement Administration is fighting back. The Miami office, with 341 agents, is the largest in the country, responsible for 11 field offices in Florida and six in the Caribbean. Responsible for catching the big fish, the agency has seen some

spectacular successes. It was this office that indicted General Manuel Noriega, Colonel Jean-Claude Paul in Haiti, extradited Carlos Lehder from Colombia, set the Colombians on to Jorge Ochoa, another drug king, and led the hunt for Marks.

But there are high costs. DEA agents have been murdered, abducted, tortured and denounced even by friendly governments such as Mexico under pressure from drug barons. Some 100 extra agents have been assigned to Miami in recent years, and the office draws on a vast network of intelligence - 57 of its own agents in 45 countries.

Their successes are important in this election year. But there is a cynicism among the agents and the Customs officers over the politicians' professed commitment to a drug-free America. All the new speedboats and planes can do little to halt the smuggling as long as demand is growing.

Until the US is ready to fund the education programmes, treatment centres, rehabilitation courses and all the steps needed to reduce

demand, the supply will continue, the drug criminals will flourish and the Caribbean and Central American Governments will be powerless against the influence of vast sums of money.

Politicians and candidates, however, are looking for a quick fix now. Some 205 Bills and resolutions on the drug issue have been introduced this session, with provisions ranging from draconian penalties, including mandatory death sentences, to the use of the military to guard the borders against traffickers.

The only answer, the experts insist, is a long-term and unglamorous commitment to reducing demand.

A few experts are calling for the legalization of drugs as a way of reducing profits and criminality. But all the studies show this would only encourage consumption.

In the end, the war will be won not with technology or sophisticated police tracking, but with words and attitudes.

WORLD ROUNDUP

Israel team starts work in Moscow

Moscow - The first Israeli diplomatic delegation to visit Moscow in 21 years began work yesterday at the Jewish state's interest section in The Netherlands Embassy. (A Correspondent writes.)

The five-man delegation is the first formally recognized Israeli diplomatic mission to set foot on Soviet soil since the Soviet Union broke off relations during the 1967 Six Day War. The official Soviet media have virtually ignored the arrival of the delegation, and Soviet officials here have stressed that the visit, described as a "technical" one, does not signify a change in Soviet policy towards the Jewish state or the Middle East.

Belgrade warning

Belgrade (Reuters) - A top Yugoslav official told a meeting of the ruling Communist Party yesterday that protests over an ethnic crisis in the Albanian enclave of Kosovo endangered state security and served warning that the authorities would crack down on dissent.

But Serbian activists said they would stage the biggest protest in Yugoslavia's history if the party's Central Committee plenum failed to resolve the conflict in the autonomous province. Several hundred Serbian demonstrators arrived by train from Kosovo in the morning.

Kenya detention law

Nairobi (Reuters) - Kenya has announced plans to extend the period during which suspects may be held without charge and to give the President a free hand to dismiss judges. A proposed amendment to the Constitution, which needs Parliamentary approval, would allow prisoners to be held without charge for up to 14 days instead of 24 hours.

The change, published in the official Gazette, would also scrap the rule that High Court and Appeal Court judges can only be dismissed on the recommendation of an independent tribunal of legal experts.

FBI got stolen files

Washington - Embarrassed FBI officials have admitted that they received documents taken from the home of a US journalist working for ABC in Costa Rica, who has tried to sue top US and Contra officials linked to a political bombing of a press conference in Nicaragua in which eight journalists were killed (Michael Binyon writes).

But the FBI said its agents had no indication that the material was stolen. Mr Tony Avirgan's house in Nicaragua was broken into in November 1985 and again a year later. The thefts of files were reported but no arrests made.

Hungarian amnesty

Budapest (AP) - Some 400 people who were sentenced for their part in the 1956 anti-Communist uprising crushed by Soviet tanks will have their cases reviewed by the end of August, a Justice Ministry official said yesterday.

But those who were charged with high treason or espionage between October 23, 1956 and May 1, 1957, or those who committed common crimes such as homicide, robbery and "acts causing danger to the public" during that period would be excluded from the planned amnesty.

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Police end Biko film's short run

From Michael Hornsby
Johannesburg

In a sequence of events bizarre even by South African standards, the Commissioner of Police, General Hendrik de Witt, last night ordered the seizure of all copies of Sir Richard Attenborough's film *Cry Freedom*, after it had been showing to multiracial audiences in 35 cinemas.

Yesterday morning the film was approved for screening uncut by the Publications Appeal Board, the official body in Pretoria which vets all films, on condition that only people over the age of 19 would be allowed to see it. The approval came only minutes before the first performances were due to begin at 10am.

Several hours later, as people were coming out of the first showing of the film in Johannesburg and other big cities, Mr Kobie Coetsee, the Minister of Justice, said that he had not cleared the film for screening in terms of the Internal Security Act.

Cry Freedom is based on two books by Mr Donald Woods, a South African newspaper editor now living in exile in Britain, about his friendship with Steve Biko, the black activist who died in custody in September 1977. Mr Woods is a "banned" person and may not be quoted in South Africa without ministerial permission.

Mr Coetsee did not have the power to ban the film. But as he had not cleared it for screening in terms of the Internal Security Act, the distributors immediately became liable to prosecution.

Two bomb explosions, one



The audience leaving a cinema near Johannesburg, where a bomb exploded shortly before *Cry Freedom* was to be shown.

in Johannesburg's Alexandra black township, and the other in Durban, accompanied the first showings of the film. Nobody was injured in the blasts, and it is not yet clear who was responsible for them.

In Alexandra, a black shanty town on the north-eastern outskirts of Johannesburg, a bomb exploded outside the local cinema. In Durban, police came into a cinema and ordered the audience out. Fifteen minutes later a bomb went off.

Cry Freedom was first cleared, uncut and without

any age restriction, by a committee of the Directorate of Publications last November. But last Monday Mr Stoffel Botha, the Minister of Home Affairs, instructed the Publications Appeal Board to reconsider.

The board said yesterday morning that in its view the film did "not present a risk to race relations or to the security of the state". It argued that the film was "a somewhat mediocre product" and that if its intention was "to invoke a revolutionary response" it would "fail dismally" because

of its "caricature, sensationalism and obvious bias".

The general response of the mainly black audiences who flocked to see the film yesterday was enthusiastic. Many said they thought the film would improve race relations by showing whites the conditions in which blacks live.

The film contains scenes of the police bulldozing a squatter camp in the Crossroads shanty settlement near Cape Town, and the shooting of black children in Soweto.

CAPE TOWN: White South Africans who attended one of

a handful of screenings of *Cry Freedom* said they were

shocked and deeply moved. "The film should be seen," said Gary Fryer, a student who was among 170 people at the morning showing of the film in Cape Town. "It will open people's minds a bit. You don't come out feeling aggressive, you come out feeling shocked."

The audience appeared stunned by scenes portraying police shooting black demonstrators, raiding a squatter camp and mistreating the detained Biko.

Village Voice

Busmen's dream killed by storm in a tea cup

From a village in the Himalayas

The grand new vistas which the coming of the bus had unveiled were disappearing. The feud the bus had provoked between the village's two richest men, on whom everybody depended for employment, undermined even the gains the community had made in the past. The conflict could ruin the village — unless the desperate plot hatched by its elders succeeded.

Nain Singh, the headman, who had won the first round when the inauguration of the bus service was celebrated by the whole village as his tea-shack did not enjoy his triumph for long. Jagatram, the owner of the second tea-shop, began drawing customers by selling tea cheaply. Nain Singh countered by adding more milk to his tea and serving it in attractive cups. Their energies, once pooled to bid jointly for government contracts which provided employment, were now centred on the tea-shops and bus passengers.

Villagers had sized up the situation; so long as the bus kept coming, the former partners would remain enemies, each man for himself, neglecting the good of the community. The only hope of ending the hostility lay in removing its cause: the bus, with all the dreams it inspired.

The bus company knew nothing of all this, but became concerned: as the novelty of the bus service wore off, the number of passengers dwindled. The few who had been drawn from town to the newly accessible area soon satisfied their curiosity. The flow of passengers, who came from outlying villages to try out the new means of locomotion, also dried up. The fewer passengers there were, the

fiercer the rivalry became between the two tea-shops.

The bus company came to rely for its profit more on the produce the village was sending to town than on passengers. Now the village could play its card. The movement of freight was at its peak. The ragged leather seats once reserved for passengers were occupied by sacks full of potatoes. Sheep and goats owned by rich villagers went by bus to town, where they fetched a better price.

The bus company's profit had shrunk, but still justified a bus service. The bus came virtually empty, but always departed laden with goods.

Implicitly, the amount of freight began to fall. To offset the loss of income, the bus was often diverted to other routes. Nain Singh and Jagatram protested long and volubly when the service became erratic and irregular. The villagers remained silent, biding their time. They still had a trump card.

The coming of the road had made the village easier to reach. Officials who rarely visited it now came more often and agreed at last to fund the building of the village high school. If a local contractor landed the job the construction would give work to many villagers.

There were other projects in the pipeline too, but none would benefit the village if outsiders grabbed the contracts. The government invited contract bids. Unless Nain Singh and Jagatram ended their rivalry, restored their partnership, and secured the work, the village would continue to suffer. That was when the villagers decided to strike: no more freight was loaded on the bus. The bus

conductor, puzzled, found that there was no shortage of produce. The company instructed him to inform the village elders that unless enough freight was forthcoming, the service would cease.

They heard him out, expressed their regrets, smiled broadly, and assured him that they could do nothing. They were strangely unmoved by the threat to terminate the bus service. What little the village produced, they blandly claimed, it needed for its own survival.

The withdrawal of the bus made little difference, except to the two tea-houses, now deserted even by the villagers. Nain Singh and Jagatram paced disconsolately in front of their shacks, waiting for custom.

They were not on speaking terms, but with no one to talk to all day long except each other, they gradually began exchanging sporadic remarks — complaints, mostly, about the elders who had advised villagers to withhold their freight from the bus and thus force it off the route.

But it got them talking. Before long they bid for the school building contract and won it.

After the school was built, there would be other contracts. The dreams the village had started out with were gone with the bus, but its poor now had employment and the wages it brought.

Wages meant food, here and now. Dreams could wait. But, with Nain Singh and Jagatram acting in concert again, even the dreams might yet come true.

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Next Saturday: One villager defies the whole community

Mandela denies giving power to US lawyer

From Our Own Correspondent, Johannesburg

Nelson Mandela, the jailed leader of the African National Congress, yesterday denied that he had ever granted power of attorney to a black American businessman, Mr Robert Brown, to represent his family's interests.

In a statement issued through his lawyer, Mr Ismail Ayob, Mandela also let it be known he did not want any "prosecution or witch-hunt" of the black children who on Thursday burnt down the family bungalow in Soweto.

In a bizarre turn of events, Mandela, by implication, also repudiated his wife, Mrs Winnie Mandela, who was at Mr

Brown's side at a press conference in Cape Town last Saturday when he announced the power-of-attorney agreement. They had both just visited Mandela in Pollsmoor prison. She now claims that Mr Brown was "misquoted".

The previous day, Mrs Mandela had allowed Mr Brown to put out a press release in her name stating that he was "being granted full power of attorney for the Mandela family worldwide".

At his joint appearance with Mrs Mandela, Mr Brown added a proviso to the earlier press release, saying that a condition of the power-of-

attorney deal was that he should consult the ANC president, Mr Oliver Tambo, in Lusaka, on all matters relating to the Mandelas.

But in the statement released yesterday, Mandela declared that when he met Mr Brown he "firmly rejected the suggestion made by Mr Brown that he be given a power-of-attorney to represent the interests of the family".

Mandela said he first heard of Mr Brown through a letter addressed to him by the president of Boston University, in the US, during early 1987, when Mr Brown helped his daughter, Zenani, and son-

-in-law, Thumbumuzi, to obtain scholarships to study there. Mr Brown is known in the US as a conservative black businessman who is opposed to economic sanctions against South Africa. He was nominated by President Reagan in 1986 to be US Ambassador here, but pulled out after questions were raised about the propriety of some of his business dealings.

Mr Ayob said he was unable to explain why Mandela had repudiated the agreement with Mr Brown, earlier endorsed by his wife. He said that he had been urgently summoned to Pollsmoor by Mandela on

Thursday and had drafted the text of the denial with him.

Neither Mrs Mandela nor Mr Brown were available for comment yesterday.

The burning of Mrs Mandela's house seems to have arisen from a feud over a girl. A local student, it appears, shared the same girlfriend as a bodyguard of Mrs Mandela's. When he discovered this, he beat her and she complained to her other boyfriend. The student was allegedly forced to appear before a "people's court" in Mrs Mandela's house and later roughed up. The arson seems to have been in retaliation.

Gujarat police abandon pay strike

Delhi — Police in Gujarat unconditionally called off their strike over pay yesterday in response to an appeal by the state Government (Kuldip Nayar writes).

The police had been on strike for six days but most of their members were already returning to work. In a joint

statement, the four unions — the Police Constables Union, the Police Head Constables Union, the Police Sub-Inspectors Union and the Police Inspectors Union — said the strike was called off in view of "hardships" experienced by the people of the state and "the law and order problems"

in Baroda and Godhra, the two cities worst affected by mob violence.

The Government, while welcoming the development, has said that dismissed policemen, reported to number 100, will not be reinstated, nor will it restore legal recognition of the four unions.

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TIMES DIARY

CLIFFORD LONGLEY

Canterbury

It is typical of the Archbishop of Canterbury to begin his speeches with a self-deprecating story, though he admits he has wondered whether the English sense of humour would baffle the largely non-English audience at the Lambeth Conference. He need not have worried — they have laughed well enough, though it is not known how well his light-hearted touches translate into Swahili, one of the four non-English languages available in simultaneous translation.

Dr Runcie's device has been copied by others. The Archbishop of Adelaide, the Most Rev Keith Runcie, recalled a misreporting of the 1958 conference: that they had resolved to have a meeting with the Deity in 1963 (a misprint for "laity").

The saving grace of Anglican bishops is that they do not take themselves too seriously. It is the least fanatical of religions, hence one of the most civilized.

The story told to the bishops by Dr Owen Chadwick was a true one. In 1908 the bishops went on pilgrimage by boat to the Holy Land, but the organizers misjudged the tide. To get to one particular holy place on time, therefore, they had to jump overboard and wade through waist-high water to the shore. "I find that story characteristic of the Anglican Communion, but also very edifying," he remarked.

To be characteristic of the present conference, it is waist-high paper that they would have to wade through.

So far, the only organized joke of the conference was the cricket match, which was raised off a field 15 overs, thus depriving us of the chance to witness "Vespers stopped play". Deacon Sheila McLachlan, who opened the bating for Canterbury Diocese against the Archbishop of Canterbury's XI, was out fourth ball. The *Church Times* described her brief performance as "courageous", which counts as Anglican self-deprecation with irony — Miss McLachlan was also the *Church Times* cricket correspondent for the occasion.

The conference is not what it sounds like: lots of bishops in one large room continuously debating. That happens next week; and they have all been given cushions by the Mothers' Union to ease the hardness of the plastic chairs. They have been in small discussion groups so far, or most of them have. One English bishop confessed to me that he had brought with him the complete works of Evelyn Waugh, and found the temptation to slip quietly back to his room for a further read had got the better of him more than once. "More amusing than the conference," he explained.

BARRY FANTONI



"I had no idea his injury was so serious"

One man having a particularly good Lambeth Conference is the cheerful Primate of All Ireland, Archbishop Robin Eames of Armagh. He has been given a key role concerning the vexed, if rather abstract, question of authority in the Anglican Communion. Under this heading, one of the issues being raised concerns the future leadership of the Communion itself — should it remain with the Archbishop of Canterbury after Dr Runcie retires, and should a new Englishman be given a go at it next time? The problem with the latter is the oath of allegiance new archbishops have to take to the British Crown. It has occurred to some that this would be no problem if he was from Northern Ireland, though it is not yet clear whether Dr Eames is up to umpiring the 1998 conference cricket match, as Dr Runcie did this year. No doubt 10 Downing Street will check that out: there is surely a script for Yes, Minister here.

Many bishops have their wives with them, and some have taken to wearing mufti on the Canterbury campaign: perhaps that makes it easier to get away with a spot of truancy. If they look scruffy enough they might even pass for journalists, who are not allowed into the group meetings. But at least we haven't had to spend two weeks living in student bedrooms, as they have. While the bishops have better halves, the reporters have better quarters.

What has bothered the conference most is someone who does not actually exist, the first Anglican woman bishop. Dr John Spong of Newark, New Jersey, is foremost in insisting that she must, or else; and Dr Graham Leonard of London, that she must not, ditto. They are two ends of the spectrum at Canterbury but they have also been seen dining together and, it is said, have had a quiet drink in Dr Spong's room. Whatever happened to *odium theologorum*?

One of the original 11 women priests in America, the Rev Betty Bone Schies, who has been at Canterbury, has disclosed that she started legal action against the bishops at one point of her campaign. She was nominated as a woman bishop as far back as 1982, for Central New York, and is a hot tip to be the first to be elected after Lambeth. "It is the threat of lawsuits rather than the Holy Spirit which is moving the bishops along effectively," she is quoted as saying.

In a sense, the entire Lambeth Conference is about her, which is no small achievement. I bet she drinks Black Label.

Simon Barnes is on holiday.

Assurances from Soviet officials that religious prisoners would be released are not new, but yesterday's intervention by Evgeny Burlatsky, chairman of the Soviet Commission on Humanitarian Issues, is probably the most hopeful sign to date.

During a visit to the US last August, Konstantin Kharchev, chairman of the Council on Religious Affairs, intimated that all such prisoners could expect to see freedom by the time of the 70th anniversary of the Revolution in November. That did not happen and, according to the day-to-day record compiled at Keston College, 175 certain and fully-documented cases remain unresolved. Under Brezhnev the figure had risen to more than 400; under Gorbachev it has fallen, rapidly in 1986-87, but more slowly of late.

Last month I met Mr Kharchev face to face in his Moscow office and was able to convey to him the negative impression these unfulfilled promises had made on Western public opinion. It is clearly an embarrassment to the Soviet authorities that foreigners constantly raise this issue.

Many, probably including Gorbachev himself, would like to resolve it. Equally clearly, there is high-level opposition to this, resulting in many hiccups in the process of release. Mr Burlatsky's intervention with the Soviet government illustrates

the debate in action. This is still something very new in the Soviet Union but it does not guarantee the outcome.

As recently as last month, the same official, writing in *Literaturnaya Gazeta*, said that his commission was studying a proposal to pardon prisoners serving sentences for "performing illegal religious rites" and that releases might be expected in connection with the millennium celebrations of the Russian Orthodox Church. There have indeed been a few significant releases since then, but the majority of prisoners remain unaffected.

There is a catch in Mr Burlatsky's statement. His phrase, repeated in yesterday's *Tass* message, refers specifically to the formulation of Articles 142 and 227 of the Penal Code, whereas only about 10 per cent of the known prisoners are held under those sections. The remainder are detained under a variety of convictions, the most serious of which are Article 70 (anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda) and 190/1 (slandering the

Soviet state and social order). It is not entirely clear, even if the judicial authorities heed the appeal of the Human Rights Commission, that most of the detainees will soon see their freedom. If not, a major irritant in East-West contact will remain under the skin.

Whatever the legal niceties, over the last three decades a determined band of Christian people, as well as of Jews and other non-Christian religions, have been persecuted for fighting for basic religious rights. The issues have been the right to educate children in the religious faith of the parents to hold religious worship in appropriate buildings and to print Christian literature.

The authorities have confronted them in a variety of ways: fines, imprisonment (during which some died), even involuntary expulsion from the Soviet Union. A draft of a new law on religion has just reached the West and it contains some changes, for example the right of parents to educate their children in their own faith in private, but

at the same time many restrictions remain in place. There will now be much debate in the USSR about the new law.

The current breakdown of known prisoners provides a panorama of world religions. Of these 103 are Christian and 72 belong to other faiths. Among the former, the largest group is the *Pravoslavni*, or registered Baptists (31), with Russian Orthodox next in line (19). There are 14 Pentecostals, 10 each of Roman Catholics and Eastern Rite (Ukrainian) Catholics. Of the non-Christian religions, almost half (35) are Muslim, next come Jehovah's Witnesses (23), then Hare Krishna and Yogi (seven each).

Anomalies abound; the Hare Krishna have recently received permission to register in Moscow, but the prisoners (treated with special brutality, causing some fatalities), who have petitioned for restriction nationwide remain in detention. There are no longer any Jews: an indication, surely, of the effectiveness of international pressure on their behalf. The

Muslims have no such lobby and little is known about individual cases.

Already this month the Soviet authorities have released over some high-profile prisoners. Victor Waler, pastor of the Pentecostal Church in Chuguyevka, eastern Siberia, was released on July 11 after a worldwide campaign on his behalf. His congregation had undergone many years of persecution, with at one time 10 members in prison. Now only two remain under sentence, but many have come to see emigration as the only solution and have gone to West Germany. This fails to solve the basic issues.

More surprising is the emigration, now expected any day, of the Catholic priest, Father Alfonsas Svarinskas, following his early release from prison a week ago. He had served just one half of his 10-year sentence. His loss to Lithuania is serious, as he has led the campaign for religious liberty for two decades. Father Sigitas Tamkevicius, an equally heroic figure, was transferred from prison camp to exile

in May and remains under sentence.

Of special concern to many in Britain is Deacon Vladimir Rusak, of the Russian Orthodox Church, because the Archbishop of Canterbury has intervened on his behalf on more than one occasion and because he has been brutally treated for writing nothing more than the kind of appeal for religious liberty which now appears from time to time in the Soviet press.

During my visit to Moscow I asked those close to him why he was so singled out — his sentence, under Article 70, is due to run until 1998. The reply was: "Because he was one of them — the most privileged clergy." He worked for many years as an editor of the *Journal of the Moscow Patriarchate*. But then he spoke the truth. He has refused to sign recantations which would have secured his release. Because of ill treatment in prison his bad sight has deteriorated and he has problems with his hearing.

The immediate resolution of his case would provide the clearest indication that the Soviet government is not only prepared to placate Western opinion but also to remove an aspect of religious persecution which has been endemic since the Revolution 70 years ago. The author is founder and director of Keston College for the study of religion in communist states.

Michael Bourdeaux evaluates Soviet moves on religious freedom

Test case for tolerance

George Hill

Seven faces of Lawrence



be. His significance in history remains controversial, though all Aldington's efforts now appear to leave much of his achievement and motives intact. His post-war retreat from fame by enlisting anonymously in the ranks of the RAF, subjecting himself to all the humiliations of the brutal regime of the day, will always seem pathologically odd. As a personality — obsessive, steadfast, secretive, confessional, vain, hero-worshipping, manipulative and self-punishing — he remains fascinating and infuriating in equal measure.

The reissue of his two major books gives an opportunity for a reappraisal of his claims as a writer. Both are remarkable performances. *The Mint*, his account of his masquerade in the RAF, caused disappointment when it was eventually published in the 1950s, perhaps because of its superficial resemblance to an over-familiar genre of self-pitying National Service sagas and Orwellian slumming.

In retrospect it appears more in the light of a quixotic and impassioned memorandum to the High Command from an exceedingly strange but deeply committed professional serviceman, arguing that the brutal man-mouling techniques of the traditional army were incompatible with the essence of an air force, with its new relationship between man and machine.

For all its signs of hysteria and fatigue, the book appears surprisingly hopeful and even prophetic, suggesting that if the fatal motor-cycle crash had not intervened, his later life might not have continued the pattern of futile self-destructiveness in which it seemed to have been set. Towards the end, he was himself finding much fulfilment working with machines — speedboats and seaplanes as well as the ominous motor-cycles.

The Seven Pillars of Wisdom was written in part simultaneously with *The Mint*. There can scarcely be two books which combine such a clear psychological continuity with such a drastic contrast of style. *Seven Pillars* is the nearest thing in English

literature to *Moby Dick* — a sumptuous phantasmagoria of struggle, comradeship and Original Sin, rhetorical, self-intoxicating and either captivating or repulsive, according to taste.

The contrast between the two books is especially marked in their mineral sections. Rocks and ravines stirred Lawrence's imagination, and *Seven Pillars* lavishly devotes whole pages at a time to passages of a kind of visionary geology, reminiscent of Melville's passionate excursions into cetacean biology. This obsessional feature survives into the studiously anti-heroic world of *The Mint*, but reduced to a series of arid discriminations regarding the quality of parade-ground asphalt.

After decades of preoccupation with Lawrence as weaver of mysteries, *Seven Pillars* appears to play surprisingly fair with the reader regarding his personality, whatever liberties it may take with history. He could hardly have written more directly about the love which dared not speak its name, and his obsession with physical pain, in a book intended for publication on any terms at that time. The famous discrepancy between his account of the Deraa incident and a reference in one of his letters is quite explicable on the basis that he himself remained puzzled by it, without any assumption of falsification.

The atmosphere of the book is captured very closely by Lean's film. Robert Bolt says today that in writing the screenplay he gave up the attempt to reach objective truth and "eventually took *The Seven Pillars* and pretended that that was what really happened. Of course he was a bit of a romantic, and I found him both a hero and a villain — a hero inasmuch as the Empire was heroic material, which I don't think it was."

Bolt suspects that the paradoxes of Lawrence's character are such that people will probably still be arguing about him when his second centenary comes round. "And I'm sure that if they are, he would be absolutely delighted." So he would; but he would have hated himself for it, too.

Commentary • MICHAEL KINSLEY

Brainily handicapped

Washington The weekend before the Moscow summit in May, as the American delegation rested in Helsinki before the final assault on the Soviet hearth, the White House national security adviser, Colin Powell, gave a televised press conference to reassure the folks back home that their president was prepared. Reagan had done his homework, Powell said; what's more, Powell had just seen the President heading toward his room with a big, thick briefing book.

How pathetic, I thought. Pathetic, first of all, that the White House should feel it even necessary to insist that the leader of the free world had read his briefing books before confronting the head of the Soviet empire. What made Powell's puffery even more pathetic, though, was that surely almost no one believed him. Reagan may have tottered away with that thick briefing book, but it is almost impossible to imagine him ploughing through it.

Most pathetic of all is that neither the need to assert Reagan's mastery of the issues that would come up during the summit, nor this assertion's inherent implausibility, caused the slightest stir. We have grown accustomed to the idea that the nation's chief executive doesn't exercise his brain very much, and — at least here in the United States — we have forgotten how astonishing this is.

Imagine anyone bothering to claim publicly that Mrs Thatcher

was prepared for a meeting of that sort. And imagine anyone doubting it.

But the past 12 years have seen a peculiar inversion in conventional notions about brains as they relate to the White House. First came President Jimmy Carter to give intelligence a bad name. Then came President Reagan to elevate thick-headedness into some kind of mystical power.

Carter's appetite for options papers and his obsession with administrative detail was seen as one reason for his failed presidency. Reagan's "success" has been attributed partly to a supposed clarity of vision made possible by not trying to keep too many things in his head at once. Three years ago, when Reagan's reputation was at its apogee, an active intelligence was widely considered to be not merely unnecessary to great leadership but very likely a handicap.

With the decline in Reagan's fortunes, maybe this is beginning to change. One thing I find appealing about Michael Dukakis is that he is obviously a man of great mental energy and intellectual curiosity. In judging a politician, what he thinks is clearly more important than how much he thinks. In any event, brains still strike me as an advantage in leading the country.

But is the perception of brain-power an advantage in winning this year's presidential election? You would think it would not be hard to convince the voters that intelligence is a desirable quality

in the person who will have his finger on the button, his hand on the throttle of the economy, his backside planted across the table from Gorbachev. But there are two potential perils.

One, of course, is the Carter analogy. Dukakis, as every profile informs us, once took a book on Swedish land use to read on the beach. That raises the spectre of a humourless bureaucrat who lacks humanity and can't see the forest for the trees. Too much "management", not enough "vision", etc.

It seems to me, however, that so far the Dukakis people have done a pretty good job of turning this one around and making it into an endearing foible. Good old Duke, earnestly plugging away while the rest of us play volleyball, and so on.

The second peril is the somewhat phony anti-elitism that seems to have gripped the strategists of both parties. Democrats are portraying George Bush as a desiccated aristocrat out of touch with the common folk. Republicans want to portray Dukakis as what used to be called a "pointy-headed liberal" from Harvard. In this atmosphere, any attempt to make a virtue of the fact that Dukakis is the more (shall we say) mentally alert of the two is likely to play right into the hands of the enthusiastic young demagogues who are running the Bush campaign.

No figure even remotely resembling the original pointy-headed liberal, Adlai Stevenson (the Democrat who lost twice to

Eisenhower in the 1950s), could be nominated for president by either party today. Senator Paul Simon had his moment during the primaries, but that's because he managed to create a persona artfully combining the professorial demeanour of a Stevenson with a down-home, straight-talk caricature of Truman. On the Republican side, even former football star Jack Kemp was considered too erudite because he kept talking about the gold standard.

It was not always thus. John F. Kennedy put great stake on appearing brainier than he really was. When the Kennedy imagers wished to contrast their man's "vigour" with the lethargy of the Eisenhower years, intellect was part of the package — right in there with glamour and youth.

Johnson and Nixon were both traumatized by intellectual insecurities, and certainly made no issue of their intelligence, though it was formidable in each case. Nixon's detractors respected his brainpower more than his admirers did.

But as recently as 1976, when Carter defeated Gerald Ford, a man of whom it was widely joked that he couldn't walk and chew gum at the same time, mental capacity was held to be a plus, not a minus, in running for president. Maybe Dukakis can figure out a way to make brains a political asset once more. If he's smart enough.

The author is editor of *New Republic*.

JULY 30 ON THIS DAY 1919

The Supreme War Council, having decided to intervene in the Russian Revolution, sent 5,000 troops to Archangel, which they took in August 1918. By 1920 Britain had withdrawn its support for the White Russians on all fronts. Our Special Correspondent was Andrew Soutar.

PERIL OF OUR MEN AT ARCHANGEL

(From a Special Correspondent. Letally at Archangel)

It was only a coincidence that my dispatch on the situation in North Russia should be published simultaneously with the official announcement that the Bolsheviks had succeeded, with the aid of treachery on the part of the supposedly loyal Russian troops, in taking the town of Onga and thereby threatening Archangel itself.

To my mind, the most serious aspect of the move made by the Red Army was the rushing of our front at Obozerskaya. Here we had a strong force of supposedly loyal Russian troops under the command of Brigadier-General Turner. I am satisfied that the situation is serious now for those troops isolated on the banks of the River Dvina, 200 miles from Archangel. Of course, General Ironside may have devised a means of getting the men down. He may have succeeded in eradicating from the Russians that which is the greatest failing of the Russian — instability of character. . . .

Since January Ironside has had to combat not only the Bolsheviks in Russia, but the Bolsheviks at home, who have insidiously impregnated our men with the idea that they had no right to be there, that the war in France being over they should be home, leaving Russia to work out her own salvation. In the annals of military history I doubt that we shall find another man who has had to contend with so many conflicting issues as General Ironside. I am certain that he has never been given definite instructions about his policy. . . . He has tried, by every peaceful means conceivable, to win over the Bolsheviks to safer ideals. . . .

I wonder if General Ironside has been kept closely informed of the trend of the Russian mind? While he was in Archangel the Russian Military Control Service was placed at his disposal, i.e., the Russian Intelligence Bureau came under his surveillance and he was supposed to be acquainted with all that was happening. How comes it, then, that he made preparations for such an offensive that would enable him to reach Kotlas at a time when General Kotchak was being driven out of contact with him? . . .

I am certain that before July I believed in Kotchak's ability to take Kotlas; today, Kotchak's right flank is hundreds of miles east of that town and is still being pushed back by the Bolsheviks. . . .

Is it true that as far back as May 17, Kotchak, commanding the Siberian Army, was told to make Archangel his winter base, was writing orders for the retirement of his right flank? . . . If it is true, why was not Ironside informed of it? If he had known of it, would he have taken his forces deeper into Russia?



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WORK FOR THE SHY

It has long been a popular conception that jobs are there for the asking throughout London and the South-east — and that a great many people either working in the black economy, or choosing to live in idleness. The same conclusion tends to be drawn, with rather more direct experience, by employers attempting to recruit staff in the capital.

Large organizations such as the Post Office, London Regional Transport, Sainsbury's and many others describe tremendous difficulties in attracting employees in London, particularly for unskilled jobs. Recruitment managers talk in terms of "competing" for employees, and all have constant staff shortages. Yet in the London boroughs of Hackney, Southwark, Lambeth and so on around one in five of the male workforce is registered as unemployed.

As *The Times* reported yesterday, this mismatch between the jobs available and the willingness of the unemployed to seek them out has been confirmed in a survey carried out for the Department of Employment on the number of vacant jobs in London. This reveals that there are some 153,000 jobs available in London, 50,000 of which need no training. Meanwhile 290,000 people are registered as unemployed, nearly half of whom have been without a job for a year.

Although the unemployment statistics do not indicate how many of those who sign on are unskilled, it can safely be assumed that there are enough unskilled jobs available to fill those 50,000 jobs immediately. The problem lies in getting the unemployed to take the jobs on offer.

The Government's policy is to cajole rather than coerce, and the measures announced by Mr Norman Fowler yesterday continue this principle. As part of a drive to fill London jobs, the department will send mobile JobCentres onto housing estates where high concentrations of the unemployed reside. The drive on inner-city jobs will coincide with the Government's new Employment Training scheme, now being heavily advertised on television. There will also be publicity for the fact that taking a low-paid job does not result in the loss of family credit benefits to top up a meagre income.

If the long-term unemployed have, in consequence, less reason to feel that they have irrevocably lost their place in the job-market

this is all to the good. If they can be enticed into taking jobs, even better. And if keeping a closer official eye on their fate results in more of those who are actually in work leaving the unemployment register, this is also a step forward. But the principle behind this latest approach to the unemployment problem is that, given encouragement, the unemployed would rather be in work than out of it.

In areas of the country where jobs are scarce, this assumption might indeed be true. But the very high figures for the long-term unemployed in London suggest that there are many people who would rather exist on state benefits than undergo the inconvenience of taking a low-paid job.

Such a situation was foreseen by Beveridge, who in his report warned that "the danger of providing benefits, which are both adequate in amount and indefinite in duration, is that men, as creatures who adapt themselves to circumstances, may settle down to them." Beveridge's own suggestion for the long-term unemployed was that they should be obliged to attend a re-training centre as a condition for the continuation of benefit.

It is one of the striking features of unemployment in Britain today that there is no coercion whatsoever on the unemployed to accept either a job, or a place on a training scheme. A declaration of availability for work is, in practice, the only precondition for state benefits to be paid out indefinitely.

Officials have for some time been studying various so-called Workfare schemes, in which claimants work in return for benefit. There is growing support for the view that these would be the most effective way to reduce the size of the unemployment register. The Government is apparently reluctant to introduce any such scheme in case it is too unpopular. Opinion polls show that the public is equally divided on the matter.

But where employers are desperately in need of staff, it is clearly absurd that the State should be paying out large sums to people who are choosing to be unemployed. The Department of Employment survey would seem to illustrate that this is precisely what is happening in London. It can only strengthen the hand of those who believe that, at least in the South-east, where the economy is booming, something for nothing should not be given for ever.

WHO DARES GOES

The Ministry of Defence has confirmed that the British soldiers who shot and killed three IRA terrorists in Gibraltar four months ago will give evidence at the inquest in September. The men reached this decision themselves after talking to their counsel, and the Government has decided not to stop them. This has to be the right decision.

Their attendance was thrown into jeopardy three weeks ago after a preliminary hearing on the Rock. The coroner agreed that the seven soldiers, all assumed to be members of the Special Air Service (SAS), should remain anonymous and that they be screened in court from the press and public gallery. But he insisted that they should be visible not only to himself but also to the jury and to counsel.

The Army, like the police, usually discourages its members from appearing at inquests in which they are personally involved. For one thing they might be vulnerable to reprisals. For another, they might prejudice their position at any subsequent legal proceedings. The Gibraltar coroner's ruling thus confirmed the Ministry of Defence's instinctive reaction that the men's attendance would carry too great a risk.

That some risk is entailed is indisputable. The men may be seen in court by more people than they would like. They will also have to remain in Gibraltar for some time — perhaps for two or three weeks. Their protection will clearly confront the Army in Gibraltar with a problem.

But this is no ordinary inquest and customary Army practice should not apply. Not many outside their families will shed tears for the terrorists who died. They were, by the IRA's admission, on what they like to dub operational duty. Had they carried out their plot to detonate a bomb during the changing of

the guard ceremony in Gibraltar innocent people — maybe very many of them — stood to be killed or maimed for life.

Yet the manner in which the IRA men died has raised controversial issues which touch the very foundations of British justice. Those issues have been well aired in subsequent debate, however ill advised some of that may have been. It is therefore all the more important now that the spirit (not simply the letter) of the rule of law should be scrupulously observed.

It is acknowledged that three findings will be open to the jury — justifiable homicide, unlawful killing and an open verdict. It is important for those concerned that the jury should bring in the first of these. But the men have a far better chance of ensuring this by appearing in court themselves to state their case than by relying on their written statements to do this for them.

Under normal circumstances, their appearance in court behind the partial screen permitted by the coroner should not expose them to any special danger. It might just circumscribe their future operations — but not to the extent of ending their careers. Any identifying birthmarks or scars could easily be covered. Nor should it be too difficult to alter their general appearance (by growing beards for instance) without undergoing the indignity of theatrical disguise.

But the question of their attendance should still be kept under review. If circumstances change, if a plot against their lives is uncovered or specific threats made against their families, the men's decision to attend should be reversible. They should travel to Gibraltar with the greatest possible impunity — or not at all. It is up to the Government to ensure that they can do so.

NO PEACE IN SRI LANKA

It took a Sri Lankan army curfew in the south of the island yesterday to hold back protests of Sinhalese chauvinists; it took an Indian army curfew to restrain the Tamils in the north. Both communities were trying to mark the first anniversary of the signing of the Indo-Sri Lankan accord. Both proposed a continuation of their campaigns of mayhem and murder.

When Mr Rajiv Gandhi put his signature to the accord last year he can scarcely have imagined the trouble that was in store. He signed for all the right reasons. By that stage there was no possibility that the Sri Lankan Government could reach an agreement with the leading Tamil separatist organization, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, on their own. The Tigers were armed and trained there widely believed to have the power to crush them, though it was strong enough to cause vast suffering among the Tamils, whom many southern Indians regarded as kin.

The Sri Lankan Government, meanwhile, was also imprisoned by the strength of Sinhalese feeling against any settlement that would have been acceptable to the Tamils. Mr Gandhi felt able to lean on President Jayewardene to force one more concession after another out of him. In return Mr Gandhi could offer to cut off support to the Tigers.

Mr Jayewardene perhaps did see what he and Mr Gandhi were letting themselves in for. He asked Mr Gandhi for troops. They would free his troops to look after the undoubtedly free reaction of the Sinhalese extremists in hostile reaction of the Sinhalese extremists in the south, and they would be there if the accord should go sour and the Tigers should take up terrorism again.

The accord did, of course, go seriously sour, and it became clear that the Tigers had grown so strong under Indian patronage that they no longer needed it. In fact the accord gave the Tamil Tigers' leader, Mr Prabhakaran, the running of an interim administration and virtually everything he could wish for short of independence.

He could at that moment have joined the mainstream of politics and become the uncrowned king of the Tamil areas. But he is one who began his career with an assassination and has the instincts of an Al Capone. The Sinhalese gave him the opportunity to make trouble by enthusiastically taking up the "colonization" of Tamil areas once more.

Outside the Tamil areas the establishment of provincial councils has gone ahead, and elections have been held to them, despite the murderous efforts of the Sinhalese militants. In the north and east the Indians who are now 50,000-strong are still trying to hold the Tigers down.

The killing of more Sinhalese villagers to mark the anniversary shows that their control is far from complete, but the experience of Punjab shows that such complete control is simply not possible. In the meantime unofficial talks between Indian intelligence and the Tigers are said to be nearing another agreement.

If there is another agreement the Indians must ensure that the Tigers are thoroughly disarmed this time. The Sinhalese should avoid stoking Tamil fears by renewed colonization. The Sri Lankan opposition should exercise restraint in opposing the settlement. The sad thing is that none of these things is likely to happen.

Minister's pledge fails to please

From the Chief Executive of the Fairbridge Drake Society
Sir, The Secretary of State for Employment's letter (July 27) indicates to me that he has not understood the problems facing specialist voluntary organisations as they struggle to cope with the Government's handling of the establishment of Employment Training.

The Fairbridge Drake Society faces exactly the same problem as the Apex Trust (letter, July 26). We specialise in motivating long-term unemployed, aged 16 to 25, who live within our inner cities. We are successful and highly cost-effective. Over 60 per cent of our trainees move on to find and retain employment, to further education or other constructive use of their time after one 10-day basic motivational training course that costs just £250 per head.

To achieve such startling results requires highly-dedicated, well-motivated specialist staff and a high ratio of staff to trainees. The heart of the problem we face is that under Employment Training there is, quite simply, no provision for such high-quality training. The principal conclusion that I have reached, after lengthy discussions with members of the Training Commission, is that quantity throughout is all-important to them. To illustrate this point — it costs £64,000 per annum to run one of our inner-city teams. If that team were to work 48 weeks for the Training Commission, providing a specialist part of their new programme, it would earn only £14,000.

In the light of the information we have been able to obtain from the Training Commission and in the process of budgeting for next year's operations we have already had to close one inner-city team and one follow-on project and make other cut-backs. The benefits of the merger last autumn of the Drake Fellowship with the Fairbridge Society will, for the time being, preserve a further five inner-city teams and two follow-on projects.

The irony of sacking specialised trainers who are able to motivate and train the alienated generation of our inner cities is not lost on those of us who now have either to close down a number of highly successful operations or massively increase the appeal base. Mr Mather, of Apex, would not be sending out redundancy notices, I would not be closing down teams, if we could find any alternative. Perhaps it is not too late; perhaps the Secretary of State can still provide funds for these vital specialist operations. I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant.

DAVID JAMES, Chief Executive, The Fairbridge Drake Society, Chancery House, 53-64 Chancery Lane, WC2, July 28.

Helping the deaf

From the Chairman of the National Aural Group
Sir, The photograph of the Princess of Wales on July 22 (later editions) shows her communicating with a deaf child under the headline, "Princess 'talks' in child's silent world". The impression is given that the deaf child does not hear — this in spite of the fact that the child is clearly shown wearing a radio hearing aid and her Royal Highness a matching radio transmitter.

Very few deaf children have no hearing at all. The great majority do hear and, given the opportunity, can learn to use what hearing they have to listen to, understand, and to talk. Deaf children have a right to hear and to be heard.

Yours faithfully,
SUE LEWIS, Chairman, National Aural Group, 18 Kings Avenue, Marcham, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, July 23.

Rent troubles

From Mr Stuart Hibberdine and others
Sir, In her letter of July 25, Miss Adrienne Corri complains about the level of rent she is required to pay under the Rent Act. She is, however, mistaken in her belief that the rent is in line with market values in her locality, as it is based on an artificial assumption that there is no significant scarcity of accommodation available for renting.

Her rent increase is around 7 per cent per annum, which is much lower than the level of increases in house prices, and most people would regard her present rent of just over £5,000 per annum for a house worth around £600,000 as something of a gift.

It is now common within London for rents assessed by the rent officer to be about 1/4 to 1/2 per cent of the freehold vacant possession and such small returns have been a major factor in the very substantial decline in the availability of private rented accommodation. This now accounts for only 8 per cent of the total housing stock and the almost total lack of new accommodation for renting to individuals.

Miss Corri's comments do raise the question of this lack of accommodation, particularly in urban areas where there remains a substantial demand from people wanting to rent rather than buy a home. There is, however, potential interest from investors who would provide suitable accom-

Complaining about the police

From the Chairman of the Police Federation
Sir, Your leading article of July 22 refers to the difficulties complained of by Sir Cecil Clothier, Chairman of the Police Complaints Authority. These difficulties are the inevitable result of the Government's attempt to reconcile the idea of independent control of police complaints investigations whilst leaving the investigations in police hands.

It was because of this basic flaw in yet another alteration of the system, the fourth in 20 years, that the Police Federation abandoned its opposition to independent investigations. This was not, as your leader implies, in order that officers who wish to obstruct justice could mislead civilian investigators. We foresaw the problems Sir Cecil and his colleagues have encountered.

We believe that the Police and Criminal Evidence Act's proposals were a recipe for conflict between the different responsibilities of chief officers, the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Police Complaints Authority. We have been proved right and I suspect that Sir Cecil's strictures have created fresh doubts about the system, and strengthen the case for a wholly independent one.

The Police Federation opposes the authority's call for "administrative discharge" to get rid of officers who "consistently have failed to meet the required standard". Police officers already serve two years on probation, when they can be dismissed.

GCSE standards

From Miss Clare Oliver
Sir, As a fifth-year pupil, presently awaiting the results of the first GCSE examinations, I would like to draw your attention to the standard of education required to gain success in the new style of examination.

With at least 25 per cent of the final marks now resting on coursework, pupils are actually having to "work" throughout the two-year course; "work" being something that previous O-level candidates only really experienced during the last two weeks before the exams.

Another thing that may not always have been required to succeed in the O-level exams, is understanding of the facts and figures that candidates have to learn. GCSEs are, therefore, a real test on a candidate's aptitude in individual studies.

Criticism has also been made of the English examination, due to the freedom of choice of literature studied. It has been claimed that this will eventually lower the standards of the country's education. Surely, however, it is better if pupils are actually enjoying their literature lessons, therefore encouraging wider reading.

Yours faithfully,
CLARE OLIVER, The Field House, Thornington Road, Great Bentley, Colchester, Essex, July 21.

One for the book

From Mr Tim Westman
Sir, Since Lord MacAlpine is a member of the Newarthill side of the MacAlpine family, rather than our own, any connection between the form shown by his racehorses and our share price would be miraculous (City Diary, July 27).

We note from *The Sporting Life* that of his two runners at Goodwood, one merely chased the leaders, while the other made no headway in the final two furlongs. This form is inconsistent with that of Alfred MacAlpine, who, although notoriously slow at the start of the race, particularly when the going is soft, has a habit of finishing well.

Yours faithfully,
TIM WESTMAN, Alfred MacAlpine plc, 10 Suffolk Street, SW1, July 28.

modation, if only this could be exploited.

We therefore, warmly welcome and support the Government's initiative under the Housing Bill (shortly to become an Act), whereby landlords will be encouraged to provide rented accommodation in a free market. This can only help to provide a better choice of accommodation and increase the mobility of labour.

Yours faithfully,
STUART HIBBERDINE (Agent, Eyre Estate), ANTHONY BROCK (Agent, Portman Estate), STUART CORBYN (Agent, Cadogan Estate), STANLEY COGGAN (Agent, Grosvenor Estate), 32 St James's Street, SW1, July 27.

From Mr M. D. C. Campbell
Sir, There is a fundamental misconception in Miss Corri's letter. She implies that a tenancy subject to the Rent Act and which is liable to rent review every two years is liable to impose a liability on the tenant for repairs. She further states that she has obligations to repair imposed on her by a lease. Her particular case is extremely rare by virtue of the length of her tenure and the fact that her lease was eligible to be absorbed into the Rent Acts.

The important point to grasp is that with very few exceptions, of which Miss Corri may be one, the Rent Acts have given a better deal

Dilemma over boat people

From Sir Peter Blaker, MP for Frome
Sir, Mr James Tysoe alleges (July 28) that Sir Geoffrey Howe has made "what seem like harsh, unfeeling statements..." about the Vietnamese boat people.

There is a real dilemma to be faced here. If the people of Vietnam, whose economic conditions are by all accounts very bad, are encouraged to believe that by sailing to Hong Kong they will soon be resettled in the free world, they will come not in thousands per month but tens of thousands. As it is, the numbers of boat people in Hong Kong have risen from some 8,000 to about 22,000 in six months. The word on what happens to new arrivals in Hong Kong gets back to Vietnam quite rapidly.

The new policy of detaining new arrivals who have come for economic reasons with the intention that they should eventually be repatriated to Vietnam is thus a deterrent policy, essential to prevent numbers from soaring even further. Those who come as genuine refugees, who are now very few, will still have the hope of resettlement outside Vietnam.

All boat people are screened on arrival to determine whether or not they are genuine refugees according to UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) criteria. It has never been regarded as the duty of receiving countries to accept for permanent resettlement those who seek to enter in order to improve their economic condition as opposed to seeking political asylum.

It has been made clear that the economic migrants will not be returned to Vietnam if they are likely to be victimised by the Vietnamese authorities. While this whole task must be a disasterous one for the authorities in Hong Kong they have shown in the past that they can handle the problem of the boat people with understanding and compassion. It is difficult to devise a better policy.

Yours faithfully,
PETER BLAKER, House of Commons, July 28.

From Lord Hylton
Sir, Mass emigration from Vietnam will remain attractive as long as the threat of famine hangs over the country, and, in particular, its northern provinces. At present eight million people are thought to be at risk.

Our Government should try to stem the outflow by joining with others in effective measures of relief. This should be followed by development aid, in conjunction with the Vietnamese Government, to prevent future famines, in what is a potentially prosperous country.

Yours faithfully,
HYLTON, House of Lords, July 28.

Defence of classics

From Sir Kenneth Dover, FBA, and others

Sir, It is quite wrong of you to assume, in your third leader of July 27, that the participants in the Triennial Conference of the Hellenic and Roman Societies are indifferent to the proposed closure of the Birkbeck College Classics Department. On the contrary, we view this retrograde development with deep concern.

The department provides a facility unique in this country for a small but constant number of highly-motivated students to benefit from the study of the classics. To deprive them of their chance, or to make its realization more difficult for them, seems both shortsighted and unjust.

We urge the University Grants Committee and the Court and Senate of the University of London to reconsider their decision and to make a more

satisfactory provision for part time and second-chance education in classics.

Yours faithfully,
K. J. DOVER (former President, Corpus Christi College, Oxford), R. G. M. NISBET (Corpus Christi Professor of Latin, Oxford), P. E. EASTERLING (Professor of Greek, University College London), F. G. B. MILLER (Camden Professor of Ancient History, Oxford), D. A. RUSSELL (Professor of Classical Literature, Oxford), M. D. REEVE (Kennedy Professor of Latin, Cambridge), ERIC W. HANDLEY (Regius Professor of Greek, Cambridge), The Triennial Conference of the Hellenic and Roman Societies, Oxford.

From Dr Anthony Daly
Sir, Your leader of July 27 is welcome, and the loss of classical facilities at Birkbeck College indeed to be deplored; and the enthusiasm of "late learners" for Latin and Greek will be disappointed in the Open University, which offers in classics only two limited courses in Greek and Roman history, and nothing whatever in Greek or Latin (or any other language, ancient or modern).

But would-be adult students — whether under or over 70 — need not despair. For a total outlay of under £50 they can buy the Greek course, published by the Joint Association of Classical Teachers, as well as its equivalent in Latin, by Jones and Sidwell (both Cambridge University Press), and then, defying the parsimony of the University Grants Committee, settle down happily to their retirement studies at home.

Yours &c,
ANTHONY DALY, 7 Victoria Park Road, Exeter, Devon.

Scents of place

From Mr N. Grenville Yeo
Sir, The letter, "Scents of place" (July 20) reminded me, a retired community pharmacist, of my time in the East End of London soon after the end of the 1939-45 War, when I was asked by an elderly lady for "a bottle of cheap scent, guv".

When told, kindly, that we did not stock such things (being solely medical in our function), she shuffled off with the resigned comment: "Oh, well, I'll have to 'ave a bar!'". heading for the public baths to emerge later, looking like a boiled lobster. Happy days.

Yours faithfully,
N. GRENVILLE YEO, 20 Beechwood Park, Leatherhead, Surrey.

July 30 - August 5, 1988

SATURDAY

A WEEKLY GUIDE TO LEISURE
ENTERTAINMENT AND THE ARTS

The rock comes out of its shell

An oyster festival,
in July? Heresy,
some say.
Pearson Phillips
discovered how
Whitstable has
put an 'R'
in the month

There are many ways of enjoying oysters. You can browse the stalls of a country market in Normandy or Charente and buy, from the tub, the small, firm, so-called Portuguese variety beloved by the French, so adept with their oyster knives. Or, in the Caribbean, you can spend a day afloat as I once did, with a barrel of small oysters picked fresh from the mango roots on the shore; a squeeze of fresh lime, a dash of cayenne pepper, and slurp.

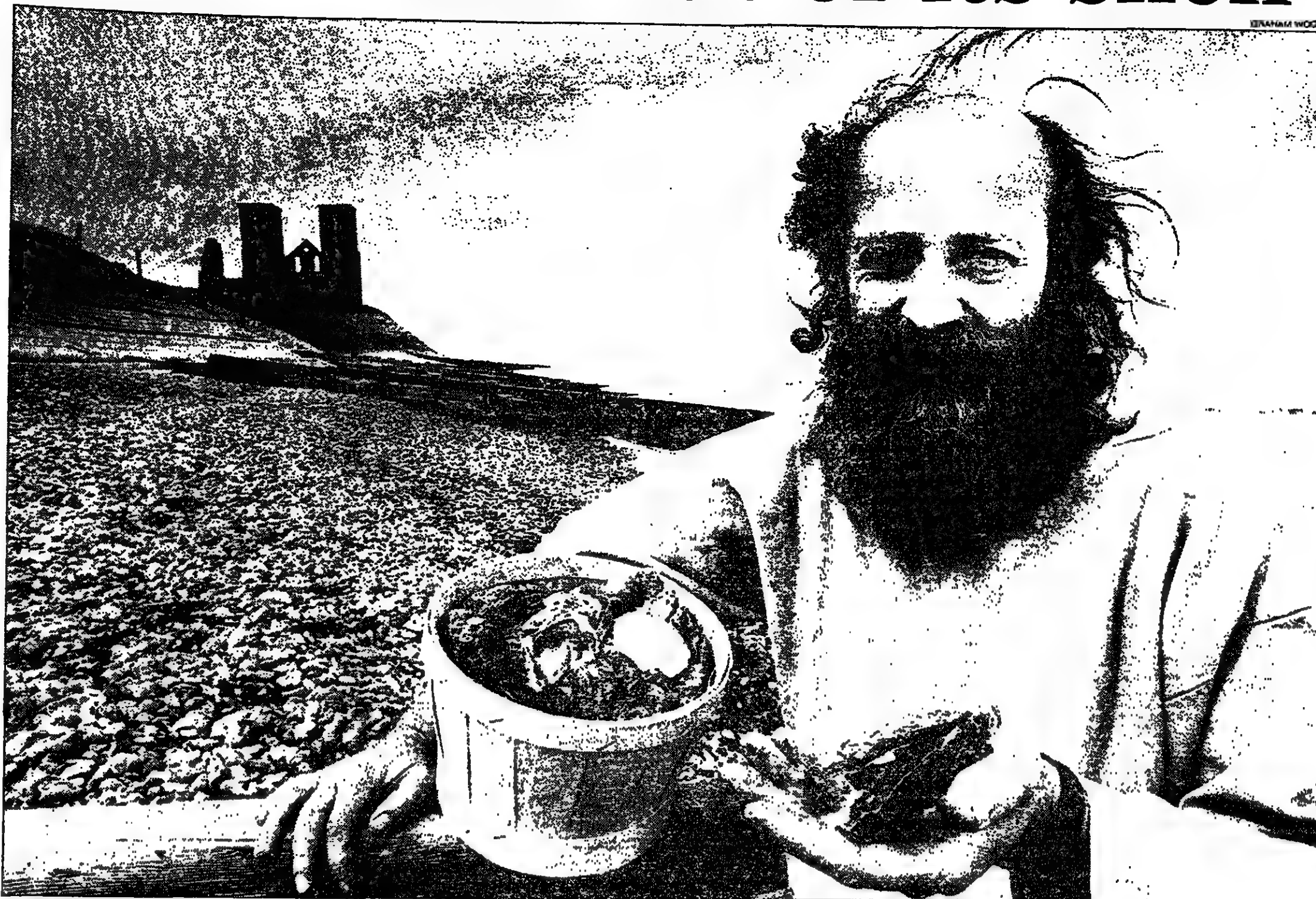
Or, for £14.99, you can have delivered to your breakfast table, by express post, two dozen Whitstables, fresh from their home on that breezy, deserted stretch of the north Kent coast. Take a glass of stout, Muscadet, or champagne, open your oysters and gulp them down as your great-grandparents used to do.

The Whitstables may not have the fullness of flavour of, say, the Colchester natives, or the American oysters now available at Billingsgate (where, incidentally, you can also buy American alligator these days). But the very fact that you can eat Whitstable oysters at all - and that in a month without an "R" - represents a minor miracle.

British oyster-lovers have been going through hard times. A combination of disease, hard winters, predatory starfish, a plague of insects called tangles, pollution, over-dredging and the sailing fraternity's addiction to a chemical anti-fouling agent (now banned) almost wiped out the delicate, flat-shelled native breed. It also made life difficult for other breeds imported to take its place.

But things are changing. I keep seeing a scribbled note on the top of restaurant menus offering, at most as an afterthought, "Rock Oysters". Sometimes they are "Irish rock oysters". Sometimes "Norfolk rock oysters". Or "Lochlynne rock oysters". Oyster consumption in Britain is now rising at about 30 per cent a year. But it is still quite small. We eat around ten million of them a year, still a long way behind the four hundred million devoured by the French.

The cradle of this oyster comeback is a sinister-looking establishment nestled behind the sea wall in Whitstable. Through the windows of low block houses it is possible to glimpse a system of tanks and glass pipe work. Substances bubble in banks of large retorts that look like upturned lemonade bottles.



Putting the oyster in everyone's reach, all the year round: according to John Bayes, managing director of Seasalter Shellfish, "we've got to get across the idea that it is no longer a luxury food"

"Upturned lemonade bottles is what they originally were," says John Bayes, who appears to have modelled himself on the traditional mad scientist of fiction, with a big black beard and a dream of changing the world. He is the managing director of a company called Seasalter Shellfish. It is likely that most of the oysters attributed on menus to various parts of the British Isles were originally born here, in one of Bayes's upturned lemonade bottles.

He rears them until they look like very small potato crisps and then sells them by the plastic sack-load to oyster farmers, who have been setting up in increasing numbers all round the coast. They pay him £700 for 30,000, then stick them on special rafts or staging and wait two or three years for them to grow to the size which

will tempt the catering trade to pay 18p a piece for them.

"It's wonderful," one oyster farmer told me. "You just put them in the sea and they grow all by themselves." By the time they get to the restaurant they can cost a £1 each. It's a middle man's world.

But what is all this about "rock oysters"? The name is a public relations invention, an attempt to make oysters more palatable to the British public, in the way that a certain featureless fish has been christened rock salmon. The oyster in question is properly called *crassostrea gigas*, the giant or Pacific oyster. In spite of its Pacific origins, it flourishes in cold northern waters. "It is the answer," Bayes says. "It is easy to breed, it grows fast, it resists disease, and you can eat it all the year round."

All year round? But surely... Ah, that business of not eating

them unless when there is an "R" in the month refers to the native oyster, which harbours its young inside its own shell, and is apt to be unpalatable in the summer season. The *gigas* does not breed in British waters except in hatchery conditions.

The farming of oysters was pioneered by a French scientist, Professor M.P. Costé, in the last century. He dreamt of feeding the poor of Europe on cheap, good, farmed seafood. John Bayes came into it when he was doing marine biology research at Poole. He answered an advertisement to build up a mollusc breeding plant in Whitstable in 1966. It was the Seasalter Shellfish company trying to reverse the decline of the local product by breeding their own.

"By the early Seventies we had cracked it," he says. His chief contribution was something called the "up-welling method".

To produce oysters in quantity

they need to be heaped in containers on top of each other. The problem is that those on the bottom of the heap suffocate. Bayes's method pumps water out of the sea, into a nursery pond, and then into a round drum containing the baby oysters. The water is forced through fine mesh at the bottom of the container and out from the top, so every little oyster gets a go at the nutrient-rich water flowing past its shell.

Bayes showed me the holding tanks full of small seedlings (or spat) waiting to go to the growers. The seawater flowing into the bottom was green; by the time it had come out of the top it was pale and clear, with all the goodness sucked out of it.

A hundred years ago, the protein-rich oyster was indeed the poor man's staple. Their sylvan image came later, with scarcity. "It's the public," Bayes says. "Somehow we've got to get across the idea that it is no longer a

luxury food. Why shouldn't people discover how good they are when they are cooked? And if only we could persuade the supermarkets that it was something they could have on their shelves..."

But the job of smartening up the oyster's image is in other hands. The town of Whitstable, once a centre of the trade before the famous Royal Whitstable Oyster was over-fished out of existence, is currently holding its Fifth Oyster Festival. Today the sea scouts are doing their stuff before Nicolette Whitaker (cello) and the Oyster Quartet will play at the Royal Native Oyster Store. Tonight the Whitstable Brass will play at a sing-along and seafood supper in the assembly rooms.

It all has the delightful Dickensian flavour which always seems to cling to oysters. As Barrie Green, who has just bought control of the Royal Whitstable Oyster Company, puts it: "We have a lot of faith in the future. Everything in nature is cyclical. We are ready for the oyster's return."

Helped, of course, by science. He will be planting some of Bayes's seed himself next year. He is encouraged by the fact that he sold 5,000 at £2 a half dozen at the last festival. The old company headquarters is destined to become an oyster restaurant.

And so Whitstable celebrates its new-found heritage. But there is one slight snag to all this: the gourmets are huffy about a Pacific oyster. As our tasting (below) suggests, they believe it lacks the taste of the old-time native product. Eating one straight from the beds on Whitstable beach, it was hard to tell, so I asked Bayes if there was any real difference.

"I wouldn't know," he said. "I never eat them. I'm allergic." There is a true scientist.

How do they compare?

Are summer oysters worth eating? The French certainly think so, and serve them up *sans interruption*. But traditional London oysterages such as the Savoy, Wiltons, Scott's and Green's do not serve them between May and August.

It is illegal to sell the native oyster, *ostrea edulis*, from May 14 to August 4, the spawning period. That legislation, though, was introduced for conservation reasons rather than to safeguard human health. Though Whitstable has lost its natives, populations survive in the Solent, the Helford and the Fal, and at Colchester, though some Colchesters these days originate from other areas.

Oysters are more difficult to handle in hot weather, and the delicate native is more prone to quick collapse than *crassostrea gigas* which, kept reasonably ventilated and chilled, can survive up to two weeks out of water.

There is no shortage of world-be suppliers. Summer oysters are imported from France, Ireland, Holland and Portugal. There have even been consignments from New Zealand (very disappointing) and the United States.

To test Whitstable's product against some of the competition we set up a blind tasting at Café Fish in Panton Street in London's West End. Whitstable's best were pitted against platters of Café Fish's *fin de claire* (*gigas* from France) and American oysters flown in fresh from Apalachicola, Florida.

Our tasters were David Cavalier, chef at Cavalier's restaurant, in Queenstown Road, Battersea; Chris Leftwich who, as inspector to the Worshipful Company of Fishmongers, is responsible for quality control at Billingsgate; and Ewan Hilleary, managing director of the fishmongers Cecil & Co and James Knight. The results suggested Whitstable has some way to go in regaining British oyster lovers' favour.

Keth Vernon, chef at Café Fish, found the Whitstable *gigas* the most difficult to open. "They have got a lot of barackle growth, and



Taste test: David Cavalier, Ewan Hilleary and Chris Leftwich

the shells are flaky," he said.

Once opened, the Whitstable *gigas* had a plump, creamy well-filled appearance, much fatter than the green-tinted *fin de claire* from France.

Though initially attracted by the Whitstables' appearance, Hilleary was appalled by their flavour. "I would happily knock back a dozen natives, but I really wouldn't want a second one of those." The French oysters had livelier flavour, he said, but "the traditional customer used to native oysters is never going to switch to either of these".

Leftwich was equally unenthusiastic. "I found the milkiness very unpalatable, almost sickly." He also thought the Whitstable oys-

ters' flesh was too soft and easily broken and the aftertaste "unpleasant". He said the French oysters had an attractive, seaweed smell and pleasant flavour, though lacking body.

Cavalier's verdict was that the Whitstables might be useful for cooking but suffered from a "bad aftertaste". The French oysters, though thin, had a "good fresh smell, and pleasant taste".

Everyone's favourites, though, were the oysters from Florida, whose smooth, rounded shells more resembled *ostrea edulis*. They were really *crassostrea virginica*, the American or Eastern oyster. "Completely different," said Hilleary. "Fine texture, very pleasant flavour."

Leftwich added: "Very good texture, full-bodied with very pleasant flavour, but a slightly earthy aftertaste."

John Bayes was undismayed by the results. "The creaminess is because of the time of the year," he said. "A lot of people like them like that." And while there was no price difference between the three samples our panel tasted, natives would have cost two or three times as much.

Robin Young

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TRAVEL 2

Roving south to a sunlit sea

The island of Porquerolles stirred memories for Travel Editor Shona Crawford Poole — but could fact match Joseph Conrad's fiction?

Citizen Peyrol had come this way when the blood-letting of the French Revolution still tormented men's dreams. In the opening pages of *The Rover*, Conrad's grizzled sea captain bemoaned the loss of his island home, a sun-drenched coast road from Toulon. Coming to a spur of land which struck south he followed it, old memories stirred by the idea that the island rising from the sea at its tip was where he had been born.

Porquerolles, "a lumpy, indigo swelling" beyond the cartwheel ruins scored deep into the stony ground of the Giens peninsula, had long seemed more solid in my imagination than half the places I have visited in reality. And of course it was in a real landscape that Joseph Conrad set Citizen Peyrol's retirement years from a piratical life on the Barbary coast, and the last sea fight against one of Nelson's captains blockading the French fleet at Toulon.

Re-reading the text first encountered as a set book for A level Eng Lit was to discover again what odd selections memory makes. I had the shimmering salt pans and hard sunlit sea beyond. Here was the dry land, blonde as sun-faded hair. But what of these cool vaults of shade beneath parasol pines — had Conrad mentioned them? He had, and olives too, but I had forgotten, preferring to conjure up a landscape so hot that human contact was in cool, bare rooms out of the glare.

The double isthmus of the Giens

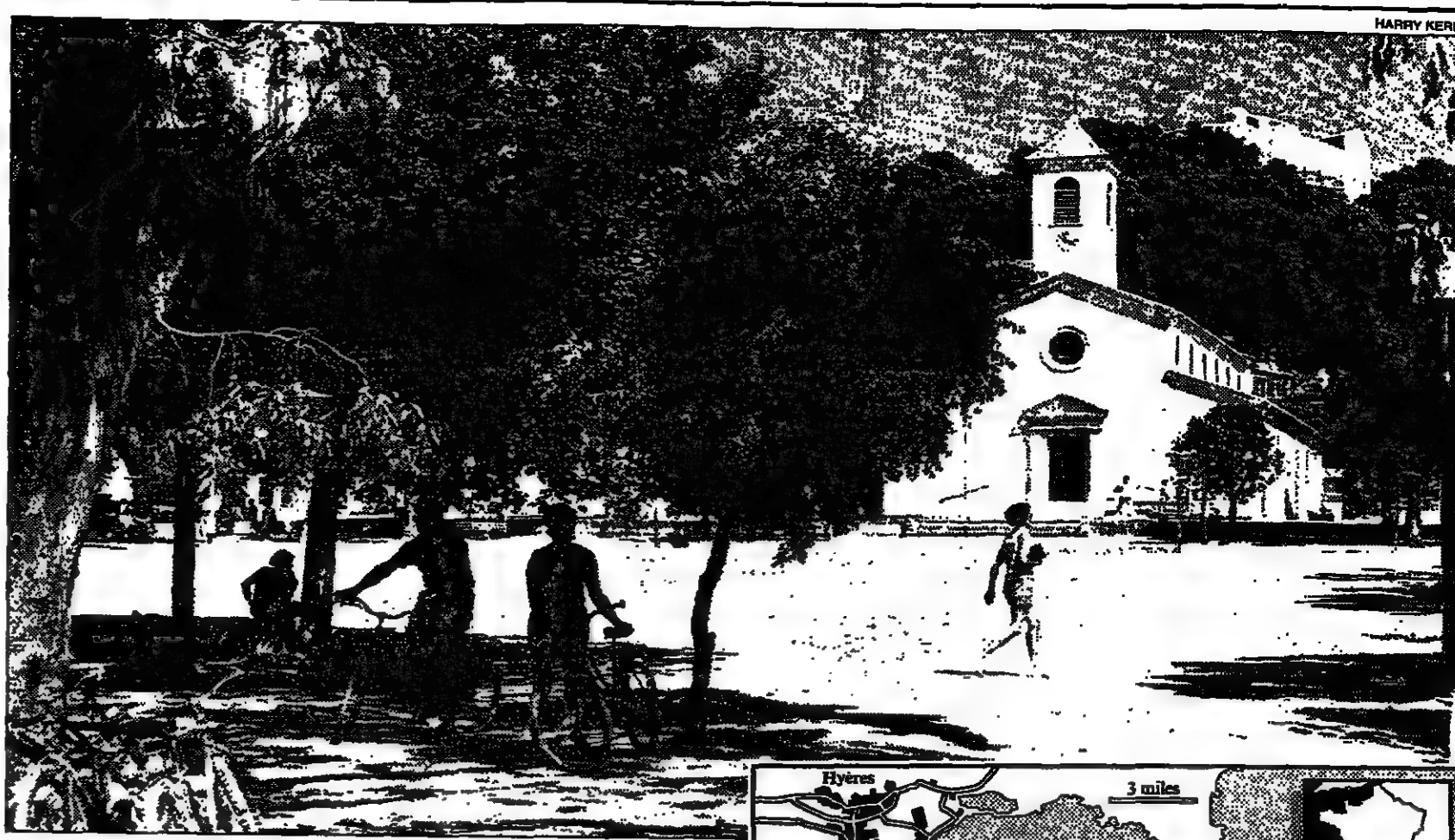
peninsula is in fact two-faced. One leg runs from Port d'Hyères, past the amply plumbed backs of the strip of beach hotels, to ferry jetties at La Tour Fondue. A second road, harder to find, runs parallel along a spine of dunes. On its seaward side, beyond tussocks of tough plants that survive marginal sand, candy-coloured windsurfers with junk-battered sails zip across the water in a cat's cradle of triangular patterns.

And between the two roads, shallow salt lagoons, Salins des Pesquiers, and a glittering white mountain of reclaimed salt.

The ferry to Porquerolles had a proper all-boards-the-*Alouette* air about it. Lovers and young families showed their legs to the sun. The tired and the tubby faced forward in the shade. Sailing boats and snappy launches bobbed in the island's little harbour. The crowd from the ferry dispersed along the jetty, fanning out on hired bicycles and comfortably shod feet to explore Porquerolles' simple attractions.

Only residents, and not too many of them, are allowed motor transport, so the sounds are all human. Coffee cups clatter on café tables, bicycle tyres make soft sounds on bare earth, snatches of talk carry on puffs of breeze.

Battered eucalyptus trees shade the stalls of espadrilles and beach things scattered round the main square. Waiters lay terrace tables for lunch. The cyclists set out for quiet beaches. Walkers head down dappled lanes to explore the cliffs of the island's southern edge. A path to the fort starts behind the church.



Two-wheel drive on Porquerolles only residents are allowed motor transport

Porquerolles is the largest of the three Iles d'Hyères, known since the 16th century as the golden isles. Down the years they have been occupied by Ligurians, Greeks, Romans, Saracens, Turks and the British Navy. Monks, pirates and madmen have lived out their days on them.

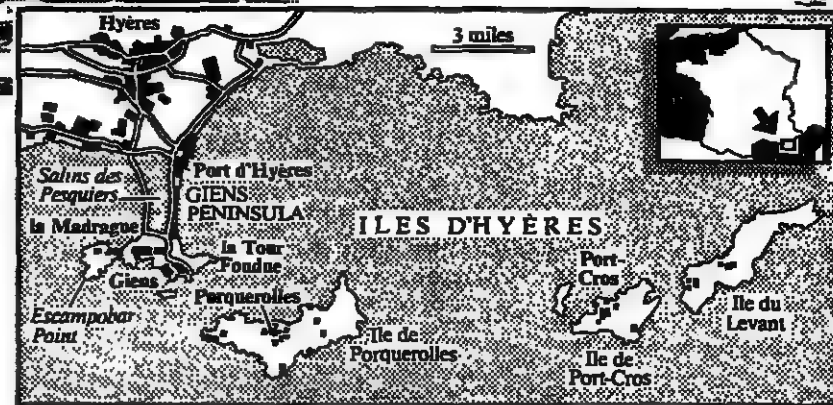
Port-Cros, the second largest island, is privately owned and most of its area is a nature reserve for Mediterranean plants. It was here that D.H. Lawrence stayed with an English woman who told him of her affair with a local labourer, and this was the tale he reworked to become *Lady Chatterley's Lover*.

The third island, Ile du Levant, is jointly occupied by the French Navy and France's pioneering nudist colony. "Non-audists are allowed, but the sight of nudists being carried around on open trucks like cattle is not a welcoming one," said Michael Jacobs in his *Guide to Provence*.

In the main square on Porquerolles serious lunchers start early, and the best tables are the first to be filled with prosperous faces anticipating moutons and red mullet and a glass of the island wine, Rosé de Porquerolles. Later business picks up in the *crêperie* and the *glacier*.

On the boat back to the mainland I searched the wooded rises at the end of the Giens peninsula for Escampobar, the farmhouse with the "lighthouse" room from which Peyrol kept watch on the maritime affairs of the area.

If it was or is still there now, it is in the care of the military, and out of bounds. But below the woods the village of La Madrague is so quiet you can hear its bees. At the water's edge, little houses and a straggly of moorings are the work and joy of individuals. There is no promenade or profit here for the property developer. There is nothing glittering to buy and nowhere to show it off. The road goes no further than the village, and so serenely, that the place has me half believing there is no reason to move on.



TRAVEL NOTES

The French motorail services (01-409 3518) offer a painless overnight journey to the South of France. There are trains from Boulogne, Calais or Dieppe to Avignon, Fréjus, Nice and Narbonne. Boulogne to Nice with a car and driver, one additional passenger, and a first class two-bed sleeper costs £538, inclusive of the ferry crossing. A second class return and two couchettes in a six-berth compartment costs £277. There is no dining car on the train, and I would pack a picnic next time in preference to taking pot luck with the

"Resto Box" dinner pack "best eaten by 1990" available at Boulogne. Leave time to shop for a picnic away from the immediate environs of Nice station on the return journey.

Mas du Langoustier (04 58 30 36), a well-spoken-of hotel on Porquerolles, is open again after renovation. I stayed on the mainland, further down the coast on the quiet side of the St Tropez peninsula. The terraces and balconies of the Hotel Souleias at La Croix-Valmar have lovely views. Bookable through French Selection (01-938 4244). Five nights' accommodation plus ferry crossing costs from £161 per person.

To stay or not to stay?

If airport delays have deterred some potential holidaymakers from flying off to the sun, this week's storms, including the worst summer gales the west coast of Scotland has seen in 50 years, may have put a dampener on plans to stay at home. The indicative will find quite a good choice of high season holidays still available.

● **Alles France** (0966 2345/5033) has a selection of self-catering cottages, flats and villas in popular areas. These include the Atlantic coast of France, Dordogne, Pays Basque and Provence. A house for four to six near the beach at Port Grimaud, Provence, for two weeks beginning on August 28, costs £768, a discount of nearly 25 per cent on the brochure price. Alles France still has some free holidays for children, and villas with pools in Provence from around £700 a week.

Sun sell

A fortnight on the Venetian Riviera for £169 is typical of last season's prices on self-catering holidays in southern Europe in the coming high season weeks. All the apartment buildings available are featured in the company's new summer sale brochure. Holidaymakers choose the resort area and departure date, and last season (01-290 1900) allocated the accommodation. Reductions for under-16s drop prices as low as £79 on the

Costs del Sol. The holidays are available in 39 resorts in Spain, Portugal and Italy.

Cheap in Oz

The Australian airline Qantas (01-748 3131) is selling tickets on domestic flights at 45 per cent of normal fares. The "Discover Australia" fares are available only to visitors and can be booked on production of an international ticket to Australia, regardless of the airline used for the London to Australia flights. The price of a one way "Discover Australia" ticket from Cairns to Sydney is £96, compared with the Australian Airlines regular fare of £136.

Floral dance

A one day excursion to see Jersey's famous Battle of the Flowers on August 11 costs £35 with British Channel Island Ferries (0705 666900). The fare includes reserved Pullman seats on both overnight crossings — the 21.30 hours sailing from Portsmouth on August 10, and the

22.00 hours from Jersey arriving at Weymouth at 06.45 on August 12. A coach will return to Portsmouth, stopping at Bournemouth and Southampton.

Hole hogs

Making the best of the big dig, Channel-watching is the latest gimmick in the weekend break business. Holidays featuring visits to the channel tunnel construction sites in Kent and northern France are planned by Golden Gateways Holidays (0892 511808) starting this autumn. They will be a terrific treat for all those people who cannot resist looking at a hole in the road.

Lucky strike

Going to a baseball game should be on the itinerary of every visitor to the US. In the case of Transatlantic Baseball Tours (01-462 6363) it is the first priority. Prices start at £567 for a weekend in Boston inclusive of flights, hotel accommodation and reserved seats for the games.

TRAVEL NEWS

● **CV Travel** (01-581 0851) has villas available in August in the Algarve, on the Greek islands of Corfu and Paxos and in south western Turkey.

Prices, which are not discounted, start at £342 per person for two people sharing a four-person villa in Turkey for two weeks inclusive of flights. Two sharing a four-bed villa on Corfu pay from £350 each, and four sharing a six-bed villa on Paxos, £400. ● **Take a friend to Florida** for just £1 with Poundstretcher (0293 518822). Any two adults booking a Florida holiday with Poundstretcher flying from Gatwick or Manchester on August 27, or September 3 or 10, can take a friend along too for a token £1. There is a snag, of course; you have to share a room with the third party. Alternatively, Poundstretcher is offering a discount of £75 on the same departure dates.

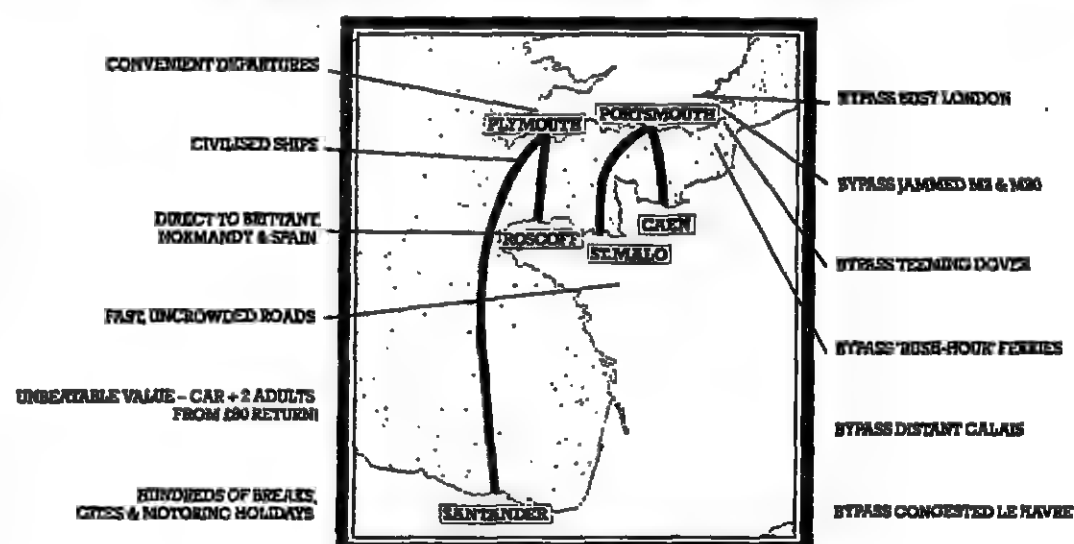
TRAVEL BOOKS

● **Arriving in a new town** to discover that it is market day is always a pleasant surprise. Doing it deliberately is easier with a copy of Linda Seaming's *A Guide To The Markets Of Britain* (Constable, £7.95). Market history, current festivals and ancient folk customs like the mock pig powder courts held at Alwrick in Northumberland colour her accounts.

● **Now in paperback** is Howard Jacobson's *In The Land Of Oz* (Penguin, £4.95). This funny account of his travels in Australia is full of pith and moment. In 1837 the explorer George Grey landed in Australia with five men, three dogs, an undisciplined number of ponies and two pints of water. His stated aim was to familiarize the natives with the British temperament and character. One hundred and fifty years later Jacobson flew into Darwin with only one travelling companion, his wife, to do the same.

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SHOPPING

Fax of everyday life

Facsimile transmission is transforming the Eighties, and not just in business. Sally Brompton charts its rise and rise

In the West Sussex village of Hursley (population: 5,300), two-thirds of the 60 commercial operations in the high street subscribe to the local fax bureau, which has even been asked to send Christmas and birthday cards.

In Japan students who, before their exams, traditionally offer up prayers at the Shinto shrines, now fax the local priest to do it for them.

An Operation Raleigh expedition, lost in a dense bamboo forest in southern Chile, was rescued by Chilean army helicopters after they were alerted by a fax message from worried HQ personnel.

The innovation of the fax machine has revolutionized not merely the business world but everyday life. Being able to send a facsimile of any document down a telephone line in a few seconds for a few pence has taken communications technology beyond the era of the telex and telephone.

With nearly half a million terminals in operation in Britain, a figure doubling each year, fax is transforming the business world of the late 1980s in the way that personal computers did a few years ago.

The first commercial fax machine was produced in Japan in 1973 after the Japanese, unable to transmit their own symbols by telex, recognized its potential. Its worldwide capabilities were obvious but the world had to be convinced. There was no point in investing in a terminal unless the people with whom you needed to communicate had one as well. So the revolution began slowly, gathering momentum only in the last four or five years.

Popularity has bred more sophisticated and cheaper machines. Today, with prices in the country ranging from £395 for British Telecom's recently-launched portable fax to well over £6,000 for Canon's most expensive terminal (which uses a laser beam to print out), there is a fax for almost everyone. And with no moving parts apart from a feed roller there is not a lot to go wrong.

It has meant that barristers can receive last-minute documents and have time to study them before going into court; artists, architects and designers can send their artwork across the world and get an immediate response. Lloyds Bank, one of the first British banks to recognize the potential of the fax machine, now has one in every branch.

"Fax is such fun," enthuses Caroline Day, manager of British Telecom's facsimile division. "There are all sorts of interesting marketing things to do with it and it's moving so fast. Every time I give a speech I have to re-do my slides because the market's changed. You have to run just to stay where you are."

British Telecom (BT) introduced its own fax nationwide in 1985. It is primarily a Panasonic product, although BT has started to commission manufacturers to produce machines to its own specification.

Most machines are made in Japan, while a handful come from France. Britain, with 30 per cent of Europe's machines, has the third biggest fax market in the world, following Japan with around two million machines and America with about one million. In America, retail sales are expected to rise to 700,000 units this year at a cost of more than \$1 billion.

Britain has 25 national suppliers, all "aggressively promoting their products", according to Malcolm Acres, chairman of the British Facsimile Industry Consultative Committee (BFICC). Canon and Nefax lead the way, each with roughly 30 per cent of the market. "The whole thing about fax is that anybody can use it," says Nick Velissarides, Canon's fax marketing assistant. With eight models in its range,

Canon's biggest sellers are the machines costing between £2,000 and £2,500. "The market has shifted dramatically towards the lower end," Velissarides says. "But, having said that, people are beginning to look for sturdier machines and anything can happen in the future."

Current machines which belong to the Group 3 category transmit an A4 page in about 20 seconds. Group 4, which operates only on BT's proposed digital telephone lines, will take about five seconds and produce clearer copies. At the moment, the quality of the copy can be affected by interference on the telephone line. Within the next 18 months, Canon is launching an

error correction machine which will re-send whichever parts of a document have been affected. The future for fax is faster, clearer and, doubtless, cheaper.

Already there are confidential fax machines which store received material until the correct personal identification number is entered. While it is not yet possible to send cheques by fax, faxed documents can be legally binding if both parties agree in advance that they should be.

Fax machines have overtaken sales of telex and are hitting both post and courier services — hardly surprising when the job can be done by fax for between 15 and 20 pence in a fraction of the time.



More uses than a plastic duck: the go-anywhere portable fax machine (Sharp FO-150, £1,448 plus VAT)

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WHAT THE LATEST MACHINES CAN DO

The latest portable fax machines come with a variety of features including automatic document feed (ADF), automatic dialling at the touch of one key, automatic re-dialling when telephone numbers are engaged; white line skip, which stops the machine transmitting blank spaces from the original document; and fallback, which slows down the machine during a poor connection to provide a clearer image. Transmission times average 25 seconds, but differ between models: the Canon Fax-Phone 110, for example, claims to transmit an A4 page in 17 seconds, and the de-luxe Sharp FO-3200 in as little as 12 seconds. Most manufacturers offer a range of machines, priced from £1,248 plus VAT for the Sharp FO-80, to over £4,000 for de-luxe office models. Faxes can also be leased, which often proves tax-efficient for companies since 100 per cent of the cost can be claimed back and equipment can be upgraded regularly. London specialists Transfax (01-871 4177) quote approximate costs for a three-year lease rental at around £70 per month for equipment worth £2,000, or £50 over five years. Here are some examples of machines currently available (prices plus VAT). For full details, contact local stockists.

PERSONAL FAX

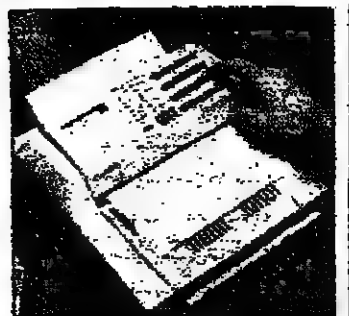
Canon Fax-Phone 110: £1,875. Can be used as a normal telephone. One-key dialling to 32 locations. Automatic re-dialling of engaged numbers. ADF: 5 pages.

Sharp FO-150: £1,448. Fits into a briefcase and weighs 5kg. Half-tone transmission with eight levels of shading. ADF: 10 pages.

Toshiba TF222: £1,895. Incorporates a 16-level grey scale, making reproduction of photographs and graphs very clear. ADF: 10 pages.

Panafax UF-150: £1,695. One-touch dialling for 23 stations and

Canon Fax-220: £2,025. Abbreviated dialling for 60 locations. Half-tone mode with 16

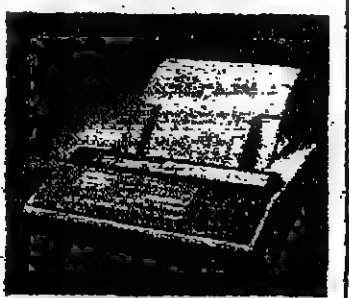


shades of grey. Automatic timer and automatic re-dialling. Timer multi-polling collects information from fax machines at 21 locations. ADF: 10 sheets.

DE-LUXE MODELS

Canon Fax-730: £3,900. Stores documents from 32 locations in its memory for sending at various preset times. Security code access. Memory stores up to 125 pages of information. A4 documents transmitted in 12 seconds. Half-tone mode with 16 shades of grey. ADF: 30 sheets.

Panafax UF-640: £3,795 (60-page memory) or £3,995 (120-memory). Can send A3 size documents,



which are automatically reduced to size of receiving machine's paper. ADF: 50 sheets. Nefax 25: £4,495. 18 MB memory transmits serial broadcasts to 200 destinations and relay broadcasts to 4,000 locations. 9-second transmission. 16-step half-tone. 256-number automatic directory. ADF: 50 sheets.

Nicole Swengley

FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

Nefax 14: £2,445. 100 number abbreviated dialling. Built-in timer for automatic transmission. Automatic re-dialling of engaged numbers. 84 size transmission with automatic reduction to size of receiving machine's paper. ADF: 10 pages.

Panafax UF-600 SF: £2,800 (15-page memory) or £3,400 (60-page memory). 100 number abbreviated dialling. Multi-station transmission of 15 (or 40) pages. Auto-answer function. 12-second transmission. ADF: Max 30 sheets.

Toshiba TF341: £3,195. Automatic dialling and document feed, delayed transmission and multi-addressing.

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THE ARTS

Paul Griffiths reports from Bayreuth on an improving new *Ring* cycle and John Higgins sees signs of innovation at the Macerata Festival

Much better

The second instalment has lifted the new *Ring* onto another plane, and onto another plain: the action takes place on an immense runway, in a grey gloom lit from the sides and appearing, thanks to a trick of perspective, to carry back 100 yards or so. On this great platform everything happens, except for the hut scene, for which a section rises to form the roof, and for the Valkyries' Ride an illuminated stairway descends.

When the long space is unbroken Harry Kupfer is able to manage some breathtaking entrances and exits: Siegmund running forward, wild and stumbling in the stage lighting; Siegmund and Sieglinde then tearing off at the end of that act, and again falling, because she wants consummation before vengeance; Wotan raging off in great circling movements, swinging his spear and banging it on the ground.

Within this set, and with Daniel Barenboim's often hectic speeds (the Annunciation of Death is an exception, being extreme in the other direction), one becomes very aware of how much of this opera takes place in an atmosphere of panic. But Kupfer reminds us also that it is a work of duologues perhaps without equal, excepting only *Tristan*, until Beckett. These eyes of the surrounding storms are quickly and intimately directed, but with an authority to demand attention.

The attraction and the affection between Siegmund and Sieglinde, for instance, is undeniable. In the long interlude before Hunding's arrival, Siegmund is already clasping his sister in his arms, and then when they move towards full recognition of each other, they become as children again, kneeling on the floor, ripping off their

OPERA

Die Walküre Bayreuth

headgear to reveal the unmistakable sign of their sibling relationship in cascades of red hair.

The Siegmund-Hunding relationship is similarly strong. Sitting at opposite ends of a rather unfortunately sub-Bauhaus table, they evidently begin to recognize the truth almost from the start of Siegmund's narration. Matthias Hölle is the Hunding, using all the colour of his Fasolt voice to the ends now of dumb suspicion; he has the gait, also, of a blunt, unimaginative man, his riding boots slapping the floor in weighty regular steps.

But the key relationships are those concerning Wotan, whom John Tomlinson now makes a man in his prime, charging about the stage, singing from full strength throughout this long part, pulling every word into shape, thoroughly involved: he acts a quite different figure from the withdrawn Wotan of *Rheingold*.

With Brünnhilde he is very much the father, romping on the ground with her when they first meet, far more disappointed than angered by her disobedience (they sit for a long time looking away from each other), then rapturous in forgiveness: the swelling music before his farewell is curiously but convincingly used for a gesture in which they join hands and fall prostrate together.

Deborah Polaski provides a young and ardent Brünnhilde, singing with ready attack, with the bravery at times to be intense but

quiet, and with a free-spirited humanity. This is a Brünnhilde who wears her hair loose, and not only to prove it is red.

The Wotan-Fricka scene is also closely and sensitively directed, and excellently sung. Linda Finnie rises superbly to the occasion with some fierce, steely intonation in the later moves of her check-mate, but then with surprising, appropriate warmth as she takes her husband back in her arms.

Wotan is covered by her almost from the start: the playfulness with Brünnhilde was only a distraction. He makes his last move with a thrust-out hand shaking on the word "need", but the realization of doom was in his singing from the first, and when he voices it, in his cry "das Ende!", the stage silently responds as a hole falls open in the centre.

The great strength of Tomlinson's singing is to present a god of lapsed sovereignty: Fricka and Brünnhilde can each wrestle with him for the spear, and his only strong action, in a toweringly powerful moment, is to thrust Siegmund backwards onto Hunding's lance, allowing his son in that instant of self-undoing to recognize him.

The magnificent cast also includes, in Nadine Secunde, a Sieglinde who conveys frailty of nature with great power and consistent loveliness of voice and in Peter Hofmann a seasoned Siegmund, who looks the part and still has strength in his singing.

In the staging there are a couple of problems: the shrouded groups of plastic ghosts at the start of the last act looked false, and the magic fire needs to have its technology made invisible. But this *Ring* is scenically now clearly on track.



King by default: Tubby, bearded John Rawnsley as Verdi's Macbeth

In transit

Macbeth Macerata Festival

Macerata — go far down Italy's Adriatic Coast and then turn a little inland — began as a festival of popular opera. For most of its 24 seasons it has stayed the same, filling its open-air arena with the cornerstones of the Italian and French repertory. Most of the big names, especially tenors, have passed this way, but, under the joint directorship of Marcello Abbado and Giancarlo Del Monaco, things are changing a little.

The stars will still come: next year promises a *Faust* with Riccardo, Aratz and Ramey, but, in addition to the open-air stage, Macerata will use an 800R theatre, long closed, as a Mozart house, starting with *Don Giovanni*; and in the meantime the 1988 Festival has opened with Verdi's *Macbeth*, by southern Italian standards an unpopular work.

One of the reasons for choosing *Macbeth*, surely, was to give the British baritone John Rawnsley, something of a local hero, proof that there is life for him in Verdi beyond *Rigoletto*. Another must have been the availability of Giorgio Albertazzi, probably Italy's leading Shakespearean actor, to do the staging.

Albertazzi certainly does not lack ideas in how to use Macerata's massively wide stage: concentrate much of the action in a central circular space, flexible enough to be anything from the Macbeth love-nest to the witches' cavern, flanked by a double staircase. The choral passages — with local forces in notable form — were arranged formally in tiered ranks up the stage.

Rather less impressive was the deployment of the witches who,

Albertazzi implies, hold the Macbeths in their thrall throughout. No midnight hags (these, but instead a series of Rita Hayworth lookalikes, in white chiffon, apart from one who is bearded: why?)

They are omnipresent. Verdi certainly wrote some jaunty music for the witches, just as he composed an almost Offenbachian final chorus for the supporters of Macduff, but it is a mistake to reflect this on stage. To sap *Macbeth* of its sinister elements creates a fatal flaw and the supernatural in this opera is not to be sneered at.

John Rawnsley's *Macbeth*, tubby and bearded, silvering hair flicked back, is a bourgeois who has become king by default as well as by his own hand. He seemed unwilling to use too much voice in the first half and came into his own only later, when *Macbeth* is on the slide. Rawnsley is adept at portraying those who know that fortune has turned against them and his high baritone sits excellently for "Pietà, rispetto, amore".

By giving the Macbeths an alcove with something resembling a water bed — not very negotiable when there is murder to be done — and reflecting mirrors, Albertazzi clearly wanted to strike some sparks between baritone and soprano. But they did not come. Maria Zampieri's Lady Macbeth was cool and remote, vocally clear and accurate but distinctly patronizing towards her consort. Ambition and madness were absent.

The greatest applause went to the conductor Jan Latham Koenig, although I found his pacing of the score dangerously slow. Further performances of *Macbeth*, which plays in repertoire with *Carmina* and *Tosca*, are on August 4 and 11.

DEE CORWAY

THEATRE

Blood Brothers Albery

In 1983 this ineffably sentimental musical won four awards for being best of brand that year. Here it comes again, book, lyrics and music all by Willy Russell, harping on about Fate and Class, and telling the sob story of the Johnstone twins.

Once upon a time, in a very big town called Liverpool, there lived a poor woman who had seven children. She was only 23 but used to say she looked 42, though this was just her funny way of talking because 30 years later, when her story ends, she looks no older than she did at the beginning. She is played by Kiki Dee.

When her eighth and ninth child are born a horrible old witch, who lives in a land called the Middle Classes, persuades her to part with one babe. So lucky Eddie (Robert

Locke) grows up to have creases in his grey shorts and a parting in his hair.

But poor old Mickey (Con O'Neill): his school is boring and he never learns the right words to tell Linda he loves her. The brothers keep meeting, in spite of everything the real mother and the false mother do to prevent it. Fate, you see.

Eddie goes to university and becomes a city councillor at 25, while Mickey becomes terminally dim and finally takes a shooter to his old chum, and we have caught up with the sombre beginning of the show.

The music is on the doleful side, amplified so that all songs sound equally loud. A portentous Narrator prowls the stage and finally identifies the unjustness of Fate with the English class system. I am bound to record that at the final curtain the gazelle rose and gave vent to grateful cheers that could still be heard as I fled shuddering to the Underground.

Jeremy Kingston

Modern manner

DANCE

Australian Ballet Covent Garden

Glen Tetley's *Orpheus* starts with a universally familiar plot, a marvellous Stravinsky score and one of the most beautiful decors Nadine Baylis has ever created: skeletal silver trees set against a back cloth in shades of grey, which tears open to reveal the mouth of Hades.

Add a cast of gifted dancers led by David Ashmore as Orpheus, and the result should be something special. Unfortunately it was not. The choreography served neither plot nor mood, and although sometimes beautiful to look at, it lay like decoration on top of the subject.

The Australian Ballet's first mixed bill on Thursday night showed the company tackling three contemporary works. Graeme Murphy created *Beyond Twelve* for the company in 1980: three sections, each danced to a movement of Ravel's *G Major* piano concerto (ably played by Nigel Gaynor).

It is the story of a boy who, at about 12, abandons football for dance, meets his first love at about 18 and beyond 25, well, the injuries are beginning to be troublesome.

Three dancers play the young man at various stages. Lisa Pavane is his first love and Colin Peasley is his Evermore mother. Alan Oldfield's designs are ingenious and effective, and the ballet is nostalgic without becoming sentimental. Of the three who play the young man, Kelvin Coe especially deserves praise for a beautifully judged performance.

Touching his toes: Steven Woodgate of Australian Ballet in Graeme Murphy's 1980 work *Beyond Twelve*

Baylis's decor won a round of applause as the curtain rose and so did John F. MacFarlane's for *Forgotten Land*: a stormy sea, waves breaking on the shore, and dark clouds looming.

Jiri Kylian's ballet begins with

six couples silhouetted against the sea and continues with a series of stunningly inventive duets danced to Britten's *Sinfonia da Requiem*. Moving at breathtaking speed, the dancers bring out the passion, grief and anguish in Kylian's

choreography, and make light of its difficulties. The three leading couples are outstanding. For Kylian's ballet and their performances alone, this programme would be worth seeing.

Judith Cruickshank

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TELEVISION

Sick as a parrot?

What is it with BBC Scotland and funerals? *Tutti Frutti* found it funny that a bunch of Glaswegians should reform a rock 'n' roll group with the departed's brother-creepers being filled by the prodigal exile: *Playing For Real* (BBC1) takes the same view of a Subotone team in Falkirk.

The fact that in this instance the replacement player should be the dead man's daughter keeps the shimmering antagonism on the front burner, but there is precious little fuel behind it.

The fattest free commercial that television drama has ever awarded a boardgame runs on the supposedly ridiculous idea of grown men dedicating their lives to a scrap of baize dotted with plastic midgets, and (by extension) the silliness of such triviality inflating the amour propre of the rival teams. Since the dead captain was unemployed, one sniffs a subtextual rat; and since last night's opener was scripted by Julie Welch, someone sniffs of acute and breezy football reports in the *Observer*, the female alone in a male bastion takes on a muted resonance.

Playing For Real has no idea how to set itself across. Still dialogue and non-naturalistic acting are par for the course, but they exist in a vacuum and the sporadic outbursts of violence have no counterweight of verbal defiance.

The natural violence of *The Yellow River* (BBC2) has been a constant visual treat these five weeks past. Last night it was matched by puny human efforts to bomb the choking ice and the dynamite the submerged boulders in order to improve navigability. Infrequent but prodigious rains erode the largest loam plateau in the world and the ensuing silt renders damming hazardous.

Stephen Jessel's voice-over is a model of informative clarity. He knows when to lay on the statistics and when to let the pictures do the talking — an increasingly rare courtesy in the field of exotic documentary.

Martin Cropper

Satisfying restoration

PROMENADE CONCERTS

BBCPO/Klee Albert Hall/Radio 3

In Thursday night's Prom the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra played the symphony magnificently under the committed direction of Bernhard Klee. Difficult and unjust though it is to single out only a few of the fine qualities on show, among them were the solidity and unanimity of the strings, even in those tricky, whispering glissandos; the overwhelming brass at the louder climaxes, and the superb, distinctive yet well blended woodwind section which has become a hallmark of this band at its best.

The singers were also in top form. Anne Evans gave "Mutter, der junge Prinz" and "Sprich zu mir, Geliebter" radiantly, both movements garnished exquisitely with Dennis Simon's violin solos, while David Wilson-Johnson brooded some formidable demands with mastery expressivity, creating, for instance, a wondrous sense of timelessness in the last song, "Friede, mein Herz". From the relaxed warmth of Schubert's "Unfinished" Symphony and Wagner's *Siegfried Idyll* earlier, however, it had already been apparent that we were destined for a deeply satisfying evening.

Stephen Pettitt

Powerful poetic polyphony

BBC Northern Singers/Wilkinson St Paul's, Knightsbridge

Britten. I found myself unable to share the programme-note writer's enthusiasm for the Parry pieces, however admirable their craft. "Lord, let me know mind end" and "At the round earth's imagined corners" yielded moments of imagination and poignant expression, but in comparison with the superb concentration of Holst's "The evening watch", Parry's utterance seems diffuse.

Under the direction of Stephen

Wilkinson, the BBC Northern Singers displayed great technical strength and interpretative power throughout their recital. The high sustained "blue" in Stanford's "The bluebird" might have been truer, but there were no other significant problems; the tortuous harmonic twists and turns of Tippett's "Plebs Angelica" and the intonational challenges of the Holst were surmounted with complete assurance. The final item, Herbert Howells's "The summer is coming" found them at their best: authoritative, accurate and poetic.

Stephen Johnson

CONCERT

Martin Best Ensemble Queen Elizabeth Hall

style of projection. Unfortunately, that often entails conveying only the simpler emotions and ignoring the subtler ones. Best's tendency to sing and speak at nothing less than a *forte* does not help, and neither here did the bland manner of his female singers, Donna Deam and Kristine Szulik.

When Lucy Sheaping, whose

role in proceedings was rather that of a Jill of All Trades, joined them in the three voice *conductus*, *Ave virgo* (what was that doing in an otherwise secular programme anyway?), the result was painfully

Another problem was that in assembling a show rather than a concert Best took us from spoken translation to spoken original (recited by himself, the versatile Sheaping and Martin Jenkins) to sung original, and from piece to piece, without pause. Had the accompanying texts been complete and consistent, our difficulties would have been less.

S. P.

REVIEW

Poetry with pimples

PAPERBACKS

First Lines, edited and introduced by Jon Stallworthy (Oxford, £4.95)

"Whoever in middle age attempts to realize the hopes and wishes of his early youth, invariably deceives himself," wrote Goethe. "Every decade of a man's life has its own fortunes, its own hopes, its own desires." And, if the man is a poet — he might have added — its own poetry.

In *First Lines* Jon Stallworthy has given us a remarkable, valuable anthology of those early imaginative efforts which posterity, unimpaired by Goethe's words, brands with the term "juvenilia". This criterion, used to select the 58 poems collected here, affords as fine a glimpse of the landscape of English prosody over the last three centuries as would any other organizing principle. Yet in addition it allows the anthologist to uncover the fortunes, hopes and desires of those forgotten decades in the lives of poets, the "early years" often glossed over in their biographies or edited out of their collected works. This is what makes this book original and enduring, qualities that its original publisher, Michael Schmidt of Carcanet Press, was discerning enough, as ever, to recognize.

"Nor else the primrose, wet with early dew, / Closes her bosom from approaching night": Walter Savage

Landor, aged 14. "Helen, thy beauty is to me / Like those Nemean barks of yore": Edgar Allan Poe, aged 15. "Why lift the veil, dividing / The brilliant courts of spring — / Where gilded shapes are gliding / In fairy colouring —": Alfred Tennyson, aged 17. "The worm doth woo the mortal, death claims a living bride / Night unto day is married, morn unto evening": Emily Dickinson, aged 19. No, these are not the lucky entries in the First International Mount Olympus Children's Verse Competition. Precise and confident, they are the work of hands which, to quote Novalis's definition of poetry, can heal the wounds inflicted by reason. Or as George Herbert, addressing God, saw it at 16:

Open the bones, and you shall find nothing
In the best face but filth; when,
Lord, in Thee
The beauty lies in the discovery

In his introduction the editor recalls young Mozart, the parallel could be developed further. It often seems that, in its baroque and classical youthful phases, the European musical tradition was quite incapable of producing anything bad; it was not until the romantic composers began their assault on the human soul that the bad took its place beside the sublime. Within the scope of this analogy it may be held that no poem in this book is



bad, for none of the poets is as yet old enough to attempt anything that could bring about such an outcome. In other words, these are poems in the baroque and classical periods of their lives. Where they went from there is another story. The Victorians seem to have had an easy time understanding themselves. Charlotte Brontë, we learn, wrote more than half of her poems between the ages of 13 and 20, noting at 24: "At this age it is time that... a few at least of the countless illusions of youth should be cleared away." Tennyson

would have approved: he composed "an epic of 6,000" when he was 12.

Not so in our century. James Joyce's first poems, collected in *Chamber Music*, were also his last: prose, then as now, seemed the more solid foundation for a writer's career. In my view, English lost one of its finest poets:

Sky thoughts and grave wide eyes
That wander as they list —
The twilight turns to darker blue
With lights of amethyst.

Andrei Navrozov

NEW PAPERBACKS

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published this week

FICTION

Deserted Cities of the Heart, by Lewis Shiner (Abacus, £3.95) Hipster thriller set in Mexico: drop-out rock star, sacred mushrooms, CIA-private army, politics, and nuclear angst.

Dreams of Sleep, by Josephine Humphreys (Flamingo, £3.95) American domestic love-and-despair drama, with teenage girl, *Disco* machine, winner of the Hemingway Award in 1985.

The Education of Hyman Kaplan, by Leo Rosten (Penguin, £3.95) Hilarious New York parables and short stories written in English.

The Ice is Singing, by Jane Rogers (Faber, £3.95) Episode of an Englishwoman on the run from her husband, her children, and herself, who begins to write to keep her own life at bay.

The Radiant Way, by Margaret Drabble (Penguin, £3.95) Intelligent and humane big novel about the way we are now in Britain, which starts with three middle-aged bluestockings who were up at Cambridge together, facing up to the Eighties.

NON-FICTION

Germany and the Germans, by John Ardagh (Penguin, £5.95) Readable, objective, and lively survey of the complexities of a divided nation by the man who did the definitive on France.

In the Land of Oz, by Howard Jacobson (Penguin, £4.95) Very funny account of travels in the private parts of Down Under.

The Bazaar of Laughter, by Alan Pryce-Jones (Hamish Hamilton, £5.95) Stylish memoirs of eminent literary journalist.

The Return of a Native, by Robert Chesvethyre (Penguin, £4.95) *The Observer's* Washington correspondent comes home after four years, sets out to rediscover his native country and its people, and finds not a lot for our comfort.

Worlds Apart, by Gavin Young (Penguin, £4.95) Collected travels in war and peace by a born raconteur and traveller.

THE TIMES ARTS DIARY

Brick stalling

Leeds City councillors are getting cold feet over an Arts Council-backed plan to erect a 120-foot brick man next to the city centre. Two years after Anthony Gormley won a competition for a public sculpture in a plot of derelict land, city planners have again put off planning permission. Costing £500,000 of private money, the brick man would be the largest public sculpture in Britain. Now Arts Council secretary general Luke Rittner has written angrily expressing his "concern" over the latest deferral. Councillor Brian Walker, Leeds planning chairman, admits: "It's getting very warm up the end and I don't mean the weather. The city is divided between those who love it and those who can't stand the thing — everything else would be dwarfed by it. The town hall, for one."

School's out

Roger de Grey, President of the Royal Academy and principal of the City & Guilds of London Art School, where Glyn Warren Philpot and Arthur Rackham studied and Lutyens taught, will be facing



De Grey and Lutyens

empty classrooms when term starts. The Inner London Education Authority has decided to axe discretionary grants to students of the City & Guilds — leaving at least a quarter of its students unable to afford their courses. De Grey feels so strongly about the school, which offers unique courses in restoration, carving and gilding, that he is even toying with asking businesses to sponsor individual students.

Deep water

After the drive-in, the float-by cinema came to New York this week. Until the middle of August New Yorkers are being invited to the waterfront to view films projected on a 30-foot screen on board a barge. The free screenings are of movies featuring Manhattan or watery themes. *Desperately Seeking Susan*, with several scenes in Battery Park, was shown near the park, while *West Side Story* was shown near the fictional patch where the Sharks fought the Jets. There is no reason why we should not follow suit here. We could kick off on the Thames with *Waterloo Bridge* and *The Long Good Friday*.

● Ten thousand pounds doesn't buy much these days. That's the sum the Manuscripts and Galleries Commission contributed to this week's *magisterial Policy Studies Institute report on the economics of the arts*. On publication day Brian Morris, the Commission's chairman, dispatched his best man to the PSI, only for him to be told that there were no copies left.

Arty Forte

A new exhibition of theatre costume and set designs reveals that not all the Forte family has its ambitions set on taking over the Savoy. Donato Forte, relative of Rocco and Lord Forte, just wants us to buy his pictures. Donato started professional life as a ballet dancer but injured his knee and took up painting. His work is better known than one thinks thanks to another cousin, Olga Polizzi (who is i/c hotel decorations), it hangs in many a Trusthouse Forte hotel. It has also recently been displayed in the Royal Opera House (Olga's a trustee), which took 25 per cent sales commission. A selection of his designs are being displayed alongside others by Noel Coward, Ronald Searle and Irene Sharaff at Galleria Fine Arts in St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex.

Job lot

After the fuss in April when the successful candidate turned down the job because it paid only £27,000, the Arts Council is shortly to name its new music director. Among the five candidates the head hunters found was none other than Michael de Grey who, as I reported last week, has just left his administrator's job at the troubled London Sinfonietta. I am told that by a stroke of luck, de Grey missed the embarrassment of being interviewed by his old boss, Sir George Christie, chairman of both the council's music advisory panel and the Sinfonietta.

Andrew Billen

Sweet and sour

ROCK RECORDS

Dwight Yoakam: *Buenas Noches from a Lonely Room* (Reprise WX 183)
Randy Travis: *Old 8x10* (Warner Bros WX 162)
Otra Haza Shaday (Teldec WX 198)

Buenas Noches from a Lonely Room is the latest instalment of the hard line according to Dwight Yoakam, who shows no sign of diluting his truculent brand of New Country fundamentalism. The title track is an emotional, blood-and-guts narrative of crossed romance that finds our hero in something of a Kenny Rogers situation after his woman has "coldly... left me to suffer and cry". Amid a dolorous, twanging guitar sound of which Duane Eddy would be proud, the song reaches its inevitable denouement: "I placed the gun to her head/She wore red dresses/But now she lay dead"/Only the tremor in Yoakam's drawing voice betraying a hint of remorse.

Strong stuff, and typical of the *Angst* that attends this neo-cowboy pin-up's every move. "What I Don't Know" boasts a tough rock beat, while the old Johnny Cash song "Home of the Blues" swings out to some finely honed



Relaxed: Randy Travis

guitar-picking. On "Streets of Bakersfield" Yoakam duets with his hero Buck Owens. The two voices are strikingly similar and meld together with sturdy conviction.

The relaxed, mellow tone of Randy Travis's *Old 8x10* could not come as a more striking contrast. Travis, who is far more commercially successful than Yoakam, takes Hank Williams Sr as his role model and tends to sing idealized love songs in unforgivingly courtly, old-fashioned tones. "My love is purer than

the snowflakes/That fall in late December" he sings in "Deeper than the Holler", while acoustic guitar and lightly brushed drums etch a delicate musical backdrop.

While these two enjoyable albums encompass the sweet and sour of modern country music styles, neither of them is offering anything new. The Israeli singer Ofra Haza, however, made a striking innovation earlier this year when she steered her electro-hip hop arrangement of a Yemenite folk song, "Im Nin'alu", into the upper reaches of the UK chart. The song is included on her album *Shaday*, together with the follow-up, "Galbi", another intriguing concoction.

Unfortunately the freshness of the approach does not extend to the rest of the numbers, most of which are more deliberate crossover plays. The rhythm track of "Da'ale Da'ale" sounds as though it was borrowed from a Depeche Mode song. When she goes the whole way and bends her extraordinarily beguiling voice in the service of westernized ballads like "Eshal" and "Face to Face" the material begins to sound like piped music in the lifts at the Tel Aviv Hilton.

David Sinclair

History men

JAZZ RECORDS

Wynton Marsalis: *Live at Blues Alley* (CBS 461109, 2 discs)
Dusko Goykovich: *Celebration* (Hot House HH1003)
Nathan Davis: *London by Night* (Hot House HH1004)

The Wynton Marsalis Quartet captured in *Live at Blues Alley* is history now, in both senses. This was its third recording, and confirms that here was not only the finest trumpet-and-rhythm combo ever assembled but one of the most spectacular small jazz groups of any configuration.

Taped during an engagement at a Washington jazz club, the quartet relaxes and stretches out in a way that emphasizes the remarkable empathy between its members. We know about Marsalis, of course: the sheer joyous verve of his playing in this context throws the remarkable intellectual content of his work into even sharper relief.

His colleagues — all, like their leader, in their middle twenties — attain a similar level of performance. Bob Hurst blends the deep tone and rock-solid swing of Wilbur Ware with the elastic swing and sheer mobility of a later

generation of double bassists. Jeff Watts provides drumming that encourages and prompts with phenomenal perspicuity. Marcus Roberts draws from such disparate sources as Herbie Nichols and Lennie Tristano to create a style of great originality, starting with Marsalis an impish and thoroughly musicianly sense of humour.

Most things would sound a little pale by comparison. *Celebration* and *London by Night*, recorded in a single session in England a year ago, accurately portray Dusko Goykovich, the Yugoslav trumpeter, and Nathan Davis, the American tenor saxophonist, as competent hard-bop professionals.

Goykovich's album finds him alone with the mature expertise US rhythm section of Kenny Drew (piano), Jimmy Woode (bass) and Al Leritz (drums). Davis turns the group into a quintet for his own album, replacing Goykovich on one track with the tenors of Jean Toussaint and Stan Robinson.

Conscientiously produced and attractively packaged, these albums nevertheless fail to reflect much beyond a decent competence.

Richard Williams

Late songs

CLASSICAL RECORDS

Brahms: 21 *Lieder*
Shirai's Brahms (Capriccio CD 10 204)
Wolff: *Fruite Lieder* Fischer-Dieskau/Holl (Claves LP D 8706)

The best way to enjoy Mitsuko Shirai's Brahms is late at night, with a glass of a favourite liqueur. Her recital is planned not to make any chronological or musicological points, but simply to glory in the voice and in Brahms's writing for it.

Shirai's way is to work on the listener by perfecting the contour of the melodic line and letting word and harmony work implicitly within it. Her extreme purity of tone and seamless legato makes of "Immer leise" a dream-like trance; her exquisitely judged weight and measure of tone creates an ecstatic "Mainacht", a lark-song incarnate.

Some will find this recital over-mesmeric, under-nourishing interpretatively. But the increasingly darker mezzo shades of Shirai's voice are matched by deeper insights: Heine's "Der Tod, das ist die kühle Nacht" shows the direction her art is taking.

Hilary Finch

BRIDGE

Right on cue

For many years the Italian Blue team seemed invincible. But to the astonishment of lesser mortals, these great players frequently suffered the indignity of bidding slams missing two cashable Aces. Surely Blackwood would have saved the day? Perhaps, but the Italians preferred to rely on cue bidding, using Four No Trumps in a different sense.

There is more than one school of thought about cue bidding. Some insist that a cue bid should promise first-round control. Others follow the Italian style, cue bidding first or second-round controls without distinction, starting with the most economical. Provided a player has a good sense of hand valuation and the ability to draw the right inferences, I believe the second method, subject to a few safeguards, is to be superior.

Here is a hand which illustrates the type of inference a good player must be able to draw.

West deals:

♠ K875	♥ K	♦ 10943	♣ A10
♠ AKQJ	♥ 87	♦ 5	♣ A109
♠ 4	♥ 6	♦ 2	♣ K
♠ KQ5	♥ 5	♦ A109	♣ 5

(1) Cue bid.
(2) East's failure to cue bid diamonds tells West there is no slam.
(3) With an absolute maximum, East makes one more try.
(4) No, thank you.

Of course, Blackwood lovers who stumble into six spades will sometimes escape the killing diamond. Which is why, I suppose, they will do it again, and again.

Jeremy Flint

CHESS

Howler from Spassky

The celebrated former world champion, Boris Spassky, has until very recently been experiencing a revival of his fortunes.

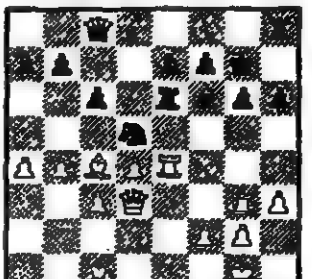
Earlier this year he shared first prize in the strong Plaza Tournament in New Zealand, while at the Belfort World Cup he entered the last round with the fine score of plus two. At that point, he had to play against Anatoly Karpov, with Spassky having the advantage of the White pieces.

Ordinarily one would expect such a game to end in a draw, or, given that he had White, that Spassky might press for a win.

In fact, there was a quite unpredictable, indeed shocking, turn of events, which left Spassky facing one of the shortest defeats of his career. Having patiently built up a most promising position, Spassky simply blundered away an entire piece with an atrocious 21st move.

This was the worst error I have ever seen him perpetrate, and it will surely go into those case-books which detail the psychological background to mistakes by great masters. Here is the run-up to that egregious howler.

White: Boris Spassky; Black: Anatoly Karpov. World Cup, Belfort, July. Caro-Kann Defence.



Spassky's position now appears dominating, but his coming move spoils everything, at a stroke.

21 Rg6?? Rb1+ 22 Rb2 Rb1

And Spassky resigned.

The former champion explained, after he had conceded the point, that he had originally been planning on move 23 to sacrifice his Rook on g6 for a mating attack. Thus, 23 Rg6+ f6g 24 Qxg6+ Kf8 and now the coup de grace, 25 Bxh6+, winning. But only now did Spassky realize that Karpov's 22nd move had deprived White of the services of his vital Bishop which had been on c1. Spassky could still see the image of the Bishop in his mind's eye, even though it no longer existed on the board.

Raymond Keene

CROSSWORD

Puzzles of the New Collins Thesaurus will be given for the first two correct solutions opened on Thursday, August 4. Entries should be addressed to The Times Concise Crossword Competition, 1 Pennington Street, London E19 9KN. The winners and solution will be announced on Saturday, August 6.

ACROSS

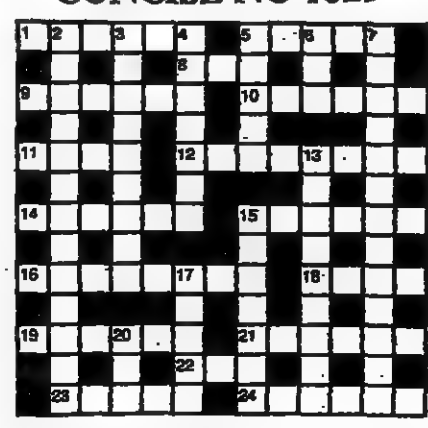
- Feeling of pity (6)
- Parasite (5)
- Meadow (3)
- Sedimentary rock layers (6)
- Light drama (6)
- Moonlight Sonata (14)
- Bein (6)
- Grumble (6)
- Elaborate clothing (6)
- Fuse (joints) (8)
- Bring up (4)
- Switchable rail junction (6)
- Picnic basket (6)
- Anger (3)
- Hundreds of countless (5)
- Feel bitter at (6)

DOWN

- Swallows and Amazons author (10)
- Made to withstand hard wear (5-4)
- Servile (7)
- Frickity desert plants (5)
- Intention (3)
- Mare internum (13)
- Foot (9)
- First year college student (7)
- Fertile desert patch (5)
- And not (3)

Address:

CONCISE NO 1629



SOLUTION TO NO 1628

ACROSS: 1 Toppie 4 Horpes 9 Prolong 10 Elite 11 Beat 12 Victoria 14 Backum 15 Palld 16 Bushveld 18 Pucc 22 Gange 23 Pende 24 Yankee 26 Sarch

DOWN: 1 Tap 2 Prossie 3 Lvov 5 Evertal 6 Prior 7 Skedaddle 8 Again 11 Baby 12 Convince 16 Lander 17 Slope 19 Soses 21 Fret 24 Sore

The winners of prize concise No 1623 are: Dawson Campbell Jr, Donaghy's Lane, Larnie, Northern Ireland, and Miss C. Himm, Tilburston Road, Godstone, Surrey.

SOLUTION TO NO 1623 (last Saturday's prize concise)

ACROSS: 1 Abuser 5 Album 8 Ems 9 Citrus 10 Dotard 11 Wisp 12 Uncommon 14 Shield 15 Reppes 16 Culprate 18 Dale 19 Cavour 21 Eunuch 22 Cow 23 Aftab 24 Spere

DOWN: 2 British Guinea 3 Squashup 4 Resound 5 Akele 6 Bui 7 Marous glacia 13 Mordosins 15 Reflers 17 Bitch 20 Oa

السلامة

SATURDAY

TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear and Jane Rackham

SUNDAY

● The Family (BBC2, 9.00pm) is the last word, for the moment, on the Wilkinses of Reading who have provided television with so many potent moments since the cameras first became a fly on their wall back in 1974. Tonight's offering is a repeat of the 10-years-after update, followed by a 1988 interview between the formidable matriarch, Margaret Wilkins, and the maker of the original series, Paul Watson. The immediate reaction of the programme to provide a useful check-list on who has been married, divorced and given birth over the last 14 years. In a wider sense the story of the Wilkinses is a story of survival. Individually and collectively they have been through almost every emotional moment imaginable and yet they are still gritting their teeth and trying to rebuild their lives. Once the object of shrill moral disapproval (all those dreadful people living in sin and having babies, tut, tut) they now compel admiration. Instead of moaning about their lot, when they have had every reason to do so, they have got on their bikes. Not for nothing is Margaret Wilkins a fervent supporter of Mrs Thatcher.

Peter Waymark



Mum's the word: Margaret Wilkins (left) reflects on having her family's daily life filmed back in 1974 (BBC2, 9.00pm)



Acting the part: John Gielgud mixes anecdote and insight to describe a brilliant career that is not over yet (C4, 9.15pm)

CHOICE

● Now in his 85th year, but looking about 60, Sir John Gielgud admits that if you take away his acting, there is not much left. He says he has no interest in politics or sport and the two World Wars of this century "have passed me by". He has tended to put everything into his work, as in one hectic period during the Thirties when by day he was filming *The Secret Agent* and by night directing himself and Laurence Olivier in *Romeo and Juliet*. In John Gielgud: An Actor's Life (Channel 4, 9.15pm) he ponders on his long career, by no means over.

with an easy-going mixture of anecdote and insight. He is generous to almost every body, with the notable exception of Donald Wolfit ("a very bitter and jealous man" who became a "strong" enemy"). He describes his several attempts at playing Hamlet, including one in New York with Lillian Gish as a somewhat middle-aged Ophelia. He is particularly interesting on Dame Edith Evans, who thought herself into a role by starting with the clothes she would wear, never tried to make an audience love her and took a curtain call at the end of a play "like somebody who had been given notice, rather crossly".

P.W.

BBC1

- 6.45 Open University.
8.25 The Kid (r). 8.30 The Family (BBC2).
9.00 UP2U Investigates the smallest theatre in the world.
10.55 Film: Things to Come (1936, b/w) starring Raymond Massey and Ralph Richardson. Science fiction drama, based on H. G. Wells's prescient novel *The Shape of Things to Come*. Directed by William Cameron Menzies. 12.27 Weather.
12.30 Grandstand introduced by Steve Rider. The line-up is (subject to alteration): 12.35 Boxing: Marlon Starling v Thomas McClintock. 1.00 News: 1.05, 2.05 and 2.35. 1.15 The TSB National Championship and Olympic Trials. 1.30 and 2.15 Motor Racing from Brands Hatch and Silverstone. 1.55, 2.25 and 3.45 Racing from Goodwood. 3.55 Show Jumping from Hickstead. 4.30 Olympics: modern pentathlon and martial arts. 4.55 Final score. 5.05 News with Moira Stuart. Weather 5.15 Regional news/sport. 5.20 First Class: inner school competition. Torquay Grammar meet Alderman White Comprehensive, Nottingham. 5.45 Film: Zeppelein (1971) starring Michael York, Elke Sommer, Marius Goring and Rupert Davies. First World War drama about British attempts to counter the zeppelin menace. Directed by Elenore Perier. (CeeFax)
7.25 Michael Barrymore's Saturday Night Out. Tonight's variety bill includes Jim Bowen, Columbo. The disingenuous detective investigates a murder at a military academy. 9.45 News and sport. With Moira Stuart. Weather. 10.00 World Championship Boxing from Atlantic City. Britain's Lloyd Honeyghan defends his WBC welterweight title against Yung-Ki Chung of South Korea. 10.30 Call Me Mister (r). (CeeFax)
11.45 Film: Cat Ballou (1965) starring Lee Marvin and Jane Fonda. Spoof western for which Marvin won an Oscar. Directed by Elliot Silverstein.
1.20am Weather.

Radio 1

6.55 Weather.
7.00 Morning Concert: Vivaldi (Concerto in D minor; Bach: Minuet in G; Vaughan Williams: Fantasia on Green Sleeves. LSO under Previn; Smetana (From Bohemia's Woods and Fields; Bavarian RSO under Kubalik).
7.30 News.
7.35 Morning Concert (cont'd): Tchaikovsky (1812 Overture); Berlin PO under Karajan; Franck (Knecht's Danes; Czech PO under Neumann); Bizet (Symphony No. 3; French National Radio Orchestra under Bechmann).
8.30 News.
8.35 Bach: Klavierübung; Andras Schiff plays Partita No 3 in A minor and No 4 in D (r).
9.30 Interpretations on Record: Beethoven's Diabelli Variations. Release includes Alessandro Orlogio (Nos 21 and 22); Royal Danish (Casse); Jaki Lindberg, (r); John Dowland (I Saw My Lady Weep, and A Shepherd in a Shade); Rogers Covey-Crump, (r); and Jakob Lindberg, (r); John Schop (Lachrimae Pavani).

Radio 2

6.55 Weather.
7.00 News.
7.05 Dave Bussay. 6.00 Graham Knight. 6.30 David Jacobs. 6.55 Sounds of the Sixties. 7.00 Brian Blessed. 7.20 Gerald Harper. 7.40 Wise on the Winds. 7.50 The 100 Greatest Songs of All Time. 8.00 AUSA National Championship. 8.10 Raging from Goodwood. 8.20 Showjumping (Gavin Priest at Hickstead). 8.30 Cricket (Essex against the West Indies, and Middlesex against Sri Lanka). 8.40 Golf (Scandinavian Express Open in Stockholm). 8.50 Rugby Union (Final test between Australia and New Zealand in Sydney). 9.00 Cinema Two. 9.30 News. 9.40 Saturday Night. 9.50 Three in a Row. 10.00 Spring Sound. 10.05 News. 10.10 Night Owl. 1.00 Night Owl. 3.00-4.00 A Little Night Music.

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. Add an hour for BST.
6.00 News. 6.30 Mendenhall. 7.00 World News. 7.30 The World Today. 8.00 News. 8.30 Reflections. 8.45 A Joyful Noise. 9.00 News. 9.30 The World Today. 10.00 Financial News. 10.30 Personal View. 10.50 News. 11.00 The World Today. 11.30 News. 11.50 The World Today. 12.00 News. 12.30 News. 12.50 News. 1.00 News. 1.30 News. 1.50 News. 2.00 News. 2.30 News. 2.50 News. 3.00 News. 3.30 News. 3.50 News. 4.00 News. 4.30 News. 4.50 News. 5.00 News. 5.30 News. 5.50 News. 6.00 News. 6.30 News. 6.50 News. 7.00 News. 7.30 News. 7.50 News. 8.00 News. 8.30 News. 8.50 News. 9.00 News. 9.30 News. 9.50 News. 10.00 News. 10.30 News. 10.50 News. 11.00 News. 11.30 News. 11.50 News. 12.00 News. 12.30 News. 12.50 News. 1.00 News. 1.30 News. 1.50 News. 2.00 News. 2.30 News. 2.50 News. 3.00 News. 3.30 News. 3.50 News. 4.00 News. 4.30 News. 4.50 News. 5.00 News. 5.30 News. 5.50 News. 6.00 News. 6.30 News. 6.50 News. 7.00 News. 7.30 News. 7.50 News. 8.00 News. 8.30 News. 8.50 News. 9.00 News. 9.30 News. 9.50 News. 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MARKETS	THE POUND
FT 30 Share 1488.7 (+8.0)	US dollar 1.7110 (-0.0140)
FT-SE 100 1853.5 (+12.3)	W German mark 3.2047 (-0.0107)
USM (Datastream) 167.42 (+0.47)	Trade-weighted 76.5 (-0.3)

SATURDAY JULY 30 1988

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

Support for Suter chairman

The board of Suter, the industrial conglomerate, issued a statement of support for Mr David Suter, its chairman, after Thursday's announcement that Department of Trade inspectors had been appointed to investigate three companies linked to Suter.

The company said it welcomed the appointment and would co-operate to the full.

The board also "reaffirms that neither the company, nor Mr Suter, has at any time been involved in any illegal or improper practices".

It was confident of the outcome which it believed would help "remove the shadow cast by recent allegations on the company's excellent performance".

The DTI will investigate share dealings in Francis Industries, now a subsidiary of Suter, and in F H Lloyd and James Neill Holdings, in which Suter took then sold stakes. In particular the DTI will investigate the existence of any undisclosed concert party arrangements.

Corah jobs go

Corah, the knitwear group, is shedding 168 jobs at its undergarment factory in Troon, Strathclyde. The company announced nearly 800 redundancies earlier this year and more slimming down will take place.

STOCK MARKETS	
New York	Dow Jones 2117.00 (+34.67)
Tokyo	Nikkei Average 27911.83 (+115.54)
Hong Kong	Hang Seng 2876.92 (+15.47)
Amsterdam	Amst 357.8 (+1.1)
Sydney	ASX 1811.0 (+11.5)
Frankfurt	Frankfurt 1477.9 (+17.3)
Brussels	Brussels 4820.5 (+17.0)
Paris	Paris CAC 354.3 (+1.5)
Zurich	Zurich SMI 486.9 (+1.5)
London	FT-30 1488.7 (+8.0)
FT-100	1853.5 (+12.3)
FT-1000	1055.33 (+5.3)
FT-10000	202.8 (-0.7)
FT-100000	97.57 (+0.08)
FT-1000000	87.94 (-0.1)
Recent issues	Page 26
Closing prices	Page 25

MAIN PRICE CHANGES	
RISER	Amersham 595.5p (+11p)
A McAlpine	435p (+23p)
Vale Group	224p (+14p)
S&W Borsford	367.5p (+15p)
GT Management	170.5p (+15p)
Admiral Comp	170.5p (+23p)
Trade Indemity	482.5p (+20p)
SW Wood	145.5p (+14p)
Western Motor	595p (+21p)
Midsomer	421p (+13p)
UK Land	337.5p (+30p)
Mersey Docks	344.5p (+32p)
Wace	307.5p (+18p)
Enterprise	498p (+12p)
FALLS	Taylor Woodrow 585p (-18p)
Shield Group	109p (-11p)
G Oliver	625p (-30p)
Int'l Thomson	655p (-10p)
AGB Research	189.5p (-30p)
Harrogate	720p (-20p)
Closing prices	Page 25
Bargains	30948

INTEREST RATES	
London Bank Base	10.5%
3-month Interbank 10.5%	10.5%
3-month eligible bills 10.5%	10.5%
Buying rate	US Prime Rate 9.5%
Federal Funds 7.75%	7.75%
3-month Treasury Bills 9.88-9.89%	9.88-9.89%
30-year bonds 9.99%	9.99%

CURRENCIES	
London	New York
£ \$1.7110	£ \$1.7105
£ DM3.2047	£ DM3.1875
£ Sfr2.6647	£ Sfr2.5612
£ FF10.7627	£ FF9.5162
£ Yen227.47	£ Yen138.02
£ Index 76.5	£ Index 76.5
ECU \$0.651008	SDR \$0.763729

GOLD	
London Fixing	AM \$432.70 pm \$436.80
Close \$435.50-436.00 (\$255.00-255.50)	
New York	Comex \$435.30-436.80

NORTH SEA OIL	
Brent (Sept) pm \$15.65 (\$15.70)	
Dutchies latest trading price	

THE TIMES

STOCK WATCH

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- Market news on Stock-watch yesterday included: Wace Group (01252), up 20p on doubled profits; bid hopes lifted Admiral Computing (05082) 20p and Atken Hume (01957) 5p; Amersham International (01005) continued its rise with another 3p; Goodman Group (02903) dipped 2p ahead of results.
- Recent additions include: Prospective Group Referred 03379; Heritage 03381; Rockford Group 03382; Erstin Group 03383; CLF Holdings cony ref 03384.
- Calls charged 5p for 8 seconds peak, 12 seconds off peak inc. VAT.

Bank reporting season ends with an impressive £452m



Top table: Lloyds board members yesterday, from left, Mike Thompson, deputy chief executive, Sir Lindsay Alexander, deputy chairman, Sir Jeremy Morse, chairman, Brian Pitman, chief executive, and Leon Wilkinson, chief financial officer (Photograph: Graham Wood)

Lloyds shrugs off pressure with 22% rise

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

Lloyds Bank yesterday brought some sparkle to a lacklustre clearing bank reporting season, with an impressive set of results showing a 22 per cent surge in pre-tax profits to £452 million for the half-year to June 30.

Unlike the other three main clearing banks, which reported earlier in the week, Lloyds claimed that it was unaffected by increasing competitiveness in the domestic banking market.

Sir Jeremy Morse, the chairman, said that although the British market was becoming more competitive, Lloyds' traditional banking business had not suffered. All three of its other clearing banks this week blamed their mediocre performance on more difficult home markets.

Mr Brian Pitman, the chief executive, said that while domestic profits had risen by 24 per cent compared with the first half of last year to £393 million, assets had grown by only 13 per cent. Sceptics in the City, however, pointed out that compared with the second half of last year the improvement in domestic profits was only £10 million.

Mr Pitman said that Lloyds' policy of concentrating on making maximum profits from certain sectors, rather than going for maximum growth in assets, had paid off.

The net interest margin on domestic business had remained unchanged at 5.17 per cent, while increasing computerization had helped to reduce the cost/income ratio to 64.1 per cent.

Lloyds has also been the most successful of the banks at using profits to boost its capital adequacy ratios after the pounding they took last year from the exceptional debt provisions made against Third World loans. Its equity/asset ratio rose from 4.4 per cent to 5.4 per cent. Mr Pitman said that Lloyds' risk asset ratio under the new international capital requirements was now well above 9 per cent.

The overall performance was achieved even after a conservative approach to bad debt provisioning for Third World loans, including £48 million against loans to Argentina and Brazil. Lloyds said that although it had already received some £29 million of an expected £105 million in back interest from Brazil, it was not including this in its profits until the current plan to restructure the country's debts had been agreed.

Sir Jeremy said that Argentina's debt position was likely to deteriorate this year but that this would be offset by the improvement in the situation in Brazil.

The bank's profits included improved contributions from a range of subsidiary activities. The Black Horse estate agency chain jumped from £3 million to £8 million, the same as it made in the whole of last year, while insurance business produced £30 million, up £7 million.

The slimmed-down merchant bank also showed sharply better results, with a profit of £5 million after a loss of £32 million at the same time last year. The loss was the result of Lloyds' decision to pull out of securities markets, and since then the group's treasury operations have been moved out of the merchant bank.

Beazer sale in US called off

By Michael Tate

Beazer's \$660 million (£386 million) sale of the Koppers chemical interests in Pittsburgh to a management buyout group is off.

A terse statement from Beazer, the construction group based in Bath, said it and the Koppers division's management had "mutually agreed to terminate the asset purchase agreement relating to the sale of the Koppers Chemical and Allied Products business".

Although Mr Brian Beazer, the architect of the group's emergence as a world player in the construction industry, described the breakdown as "a personal setback," he believed the eventual outcome would be favourable to the group.

He believes the operations, part of the Koppers empire finally acquired for \$1.7 billion last month at the end of a long and acrimonious takeover bid battle, will eventually fetch a bigger price.

"I have instructed our

investment bankers (Shearson Lehman) to proceed with the sale of the assets as a whole or in parts," he said from his Pittsburgh office yesterday. "I suspect the eventual price will be substantially higher."

He added that he had received "many approaches" from "a wide range of international companies based in the UK, the US and the Far East," and he believed that a deal or deals could be finalized within three months. Beazer hopes it can sell the business for up to \$760 million.

Analysts were rather more sceptical, and questioned how operations valued at \$500 million at the beginning of July could be attributed two substantially different valuations within a month.

Beazer, keen to redeem part of the huge cost of the original Koppers deal at the earliest opportunity, is perceived to be an eager seller in a buyer's market.

Beazer shares slipped back from 192p to 184p, but were

not thought likely to lose much more ground.

"Most of the looser holders were shaken out during the bid," said one analyst. "Only the fans are left now."

No official reason was given for the withdrawal by the US division's management, although it has expressed concern about the environmental issues.

More likely, however, is that the Koppers management, which was being assisted in a planned leveraged buyout by Sterling Group, a buyout specialist based in Houston, had problems raising the necessary finance.

The Chemical and Allied Products division is the leading US producer of coal-tar derivative products, processing more than 100 million gallons of coal tar, a coke by-product, a year.

Its main products include carbon pitch, used in the aluminium industry, creosote, and naphthalene, used in the chemical industries.

Central banks hold back dollar

By Rodney Lord

Sterling weakened after a firm start in London and there was no need for any intervention by the Bank of England to hold the exchange down.

The pound closed 0.67 pence down at DM3.2038 with the effective rate index down 0.3 at 76.5.

The dollar rose strongly throughout the day on consideration of the testimony by Mr Alan Greenspan, the chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, to Congress on Thursday, and the rise in personal income and expenditure.

These were taken to reinforce the upward trend in interest rates. The US currency finished nearly a penny higher at DM1.8730 after some central bank intervention to restrain its rise.

Final figures for Britain's money supply during June for the most part confirmed the earlier figures. They also showed a further acceleration in the M2 measure to an annual rate of increase of 15 per cent.

Meanwhile growth in the narrow measure M0, which is the only measure targeted by the Government, has continued high during July. Mr Stephen Hannah of County NatWest Gills said: "The weekly banking returns suggest that the year-on-year increase will fall back from 7½ per cent to 7 per cent."

Changes sought on stake disclosures

By Graham Searjeant, Financial Editor

The Government wants to shorten the five-day deadline for disclosure of stakes of 5 per cent or more in public companies. But it is asking for comment by mid-September on what the new limit should be.

A consultative paper from the Department of Trade and Industry also makes clear that the Government will consider applying the disclosure rules to stakes of less than 5 per cent if companies and the financial community want to do so.

The five-day deadline has been criticized because it allows predators planning takeovers to build their stakes much higher before they have to disclose initial purchases of 5 per cent.

The consultation paper stems from further studies set in train after last year's review of the rules of the City Takeover Panel in the wake of controversial takeover battles.

Changes in the five-day

deadline and the 5 per cent rule could be made without the need for fresh legislation.

Government responses in the consultation paper suggest it is not keen on changes which would require legislative amendments.

In particular, the Government is unenthusiastic about changes in procedures for firms to force disclosure of the ultimate owners of nominee shareholdings under the 1985 Companies Act, which many have found so cumbersome as to be impractical.

Mr Francis Maude, the Corporate Affairs Minister, said, however, the Government would not decide policy until it had considered responses from companies and shareholders, especially on the use of nominees.

"If legislative changes are thought necessary, we intend to include them in the next Companies Bill," he said.

Oftel in BT ruling

By Our Financial Editor

The Office of Telecommunications has given a new boost to Mercury, the designated competitor to British Telecom, by ruling that BT must reduce the rates it charges to connect Mercury to its international network.

BT charges standard network call rates, but from Monday these will be cut by between 15 and 45 per cent.

Mercury hailed the ruling as positive. It will affect 40 per cent of Mercury's international traffic, much of which operates at a loss, the rest being handled through Mercury's own direct links.

Mercury came into overall profit at the turn of the year and has been forecast by some City analysts to make a £30 million profit this year.

T-Line ahead of forecast

Thomson T-Line, the fast-growing mini-conglomerate and owner of Vernons Pools, made pre-tax profits of £6.14 million for the year ended April, comfortably exceeding its forecast of £4.6 million.

The Vernons Interest, whose acquisition was completed on March 4, contributed an estimated £1.5 million and, according to analysts, could be expected to bring in £9 million in a full year.

Thomson T-Line's profit for the previous 16 months was £760,000.

The group is declaring a final dividend of 1p a share, making 1.6p for the year.

Anger as Crichton-Brown leaves Rothmans

Cloud hangs over £750,000 'goodbye'

By Colin Campbell

Sir Robert Crichton-Brown, a man with a £750,000 frown, yesterday bowed out of Rothmans International, after only 44 months as chairman, with enough money from his "golden goodbye" to buy 474,683 packets of Dunhill International cigarettes.

The calculation assumes Sir Robert, who in his own words is now free to take his first holiday in four years, qualifies for no trade discounts.

Yesterday he was a man with a three-quarter of a million frown because ringing in his ears were cries of "it stinks," "morally indefensible," and "atrociously ill-judged."

Ordinary shareholders attending Rothmans' annual meeting at the Dorchester were hardly impressed when told there would be no show of hands on the resolution on Sir Robert's pay-off and instead there would be a poll.

One shareholder thought, at the very least, that since the two deputy chairmen had distinguished entries in *Who's Who*, the resolution would never have seen the light of day. What a shock to discover it was the three non-executives who came

up with the idea and the figure, which the rest of the board unanimously endorsed.

Additional smoke was rubbed into shareholders' eyes when Mr David Montagu (acting chairman for the controversial resolution, and now the new chairman of Rothmans) added that in any case the group's two major shareholders had already given him their proxies, and that the resolution *per se* would go through.

"I will not even adjourn the meeting while the proxies are counted," Mr Montagu added, so Sir Robert's golden retreat was established at the rate of £15,000 a minute.

Had the two major shareholders been at the Dorchester they would have heard the call for them as individual companies to fund Sir Robert's goodbye present. As it was, all but one of the Rothmans board was left to squirm when it was pointed out that only one director was actually a shareholder.

For one who had just become three-quarters of a millionaire, Sir Robert's mood was black when surrounded by the Press afterwards. "I have no comment to make," was the best measured quote he

could offer. Meanwhile in Pall Mall, Piccadilly, the Institute of Directors was delivering its judgement on golden goodbyes: justify them or stop them, the IoD booms.

Sir John Hoskyns, director-general of the IoD, whose views could have had more impact had they been aired before the Rothmans meeting and before Sir Robert packed his holiday bags, said golden goodbyes to top company executives were getting business a bad name.

Large terminal ex-gratia payments to retiring executives may have been contractually justified and exhaustively discussed, Sir John conceded, but there was a real danger that, to those outside business who did not know the detail, the practice will give the impression of directors looking after directors.

"Where golden goodbyes are contractually justified, businesses should make a point of explaining why."

"Where they are not justified, it is incumbent upon non-executive directors, in their watchdog role and as guardians of a company's conscience, to speak out and seek to challenge such payments," Sir John added.

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Just give us the information we need, and we'll have an offer in principle out to you in less than 48 hours. And we'll stay with it with the same speed and efficiency right the way through to completion. What's more, we'll send you a cheque for £100 should we not live up to our 48 hour promise.

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AGB Research has to write off £45m over US challenge

By Michael Tate

Britain's biggest market research group, AGB Research, has been forced to write off £45 million in connection with its ill-starred challenge to Nielsen's domination of the US television audience measurement market.

The US operation, which pioneered the electronic PeopleMeter has been closed down, and, under the terms of its formation, it must repay £29 million of loans and equity investment to its partners and backers, and write off a further £16 million in connection with its own, minority, investment.

A restructuring of AGB sees the group pumping a further £22 million into the US via the acquisition of Mediaguard Research Inc, a leading US market research business, from MAI, the quoted money

broking to advertising group. This deal leaves MAI, the group which made its fortune from roadside posters, with a 28 per cent stake in AGB, which still has its television ratings business in Britain.

At the same time AGB is selling its Trenton Group of exhibition businesses and its AGB Highway publishing division, publisher of *Fishing News* and other commercial fishing magazines, to EMAP, the former East Midlands Allied Press, for £22 million in cash.

Commenting on the US closure, Sir Bernard Audley, AGB chairman, said: "The prospects of future revenue would not make the project viable and would be unlikely to cover the increased level of costs."

AGB developed the People-

Meter system for measuring TV audiences, but found itself overwhelmed when Nielsen fought back, and was unable to win the necessary support from the US television networks.

Shares in AGB, suspended at 23p two weeks ago, returned to the market, and closed at 19p. Ignoring the £45 million extraordinary charge, Sir Bernard estimated that profits for the year to April were not less than £10.6 million, against £10.8 million. Earnings per share should be 14.1p.

Mr Clive Hollick, chairman of MAI, said the deal with AGB "achieves the strategic objective for us of getting into the market research business without having to issue shares. In fact, there is a small earnings-per-share gain."

Action on Outhwaite 'not likely to succeed'

The likelihood of legal action by the 1,500 investors of RHM Outhwaite, the Lloyd's of London underwriting syndicate which faces claims of up to £260 million, receded yesterday after an independent lawyer's report on the losses.

The report by Mr Stewart Boyd QC was commissioned by the names in the Outhwaite syndicate who are considering taking legal action against Mr Richard Outhwaite, the underwriter.

Mr Boyd confirmed the conclusions of two earlier reports which said although the names had cause for concern, they were unlikely to win a court battle. In particular, an investigation carried out by Freshfields, a firm of solicitors, on behalf of the managing agents involved, criticized Mr Outhwaite but said evidence did not amount to a strong enough case.

Mr Boyd did not rule out the possibility of a successful legal action. Interpretation of the law involved predicting how a court would decide on a particular case in the light of previous decisions, and that could not be certain.

Mr Outhwaite is suing the Lloyd's syndicates from which he took the reinsurance business which is causing the losses. He said he was given insufficient information about the policies.

£35,000 profit for Electronic

Electronic Machine Company, the radar, electronics and optics group, has improved pre-tax profits despite "difficult trading conditions".

Pre-tax profit for the half year to end-March rose to £35,000 from £21,000. The interim dividend is unchanged at 0.3p.

Park down

Park Food Group reported profits down 12.9 per cent at £2.28 million for the year to end-March, despite an 18 per cent increase in turnover. The directors proposed a dividend increase to 3.6p from 3.25p.

Addison fall

Shares in Addison Consultancy fell yesterday after it warned that profits for the first half would do little more than break even. After falling 3p, shares closed 1p lower at 38p.

Shield up 28%

Shield, the USM property group, has posted pre-tax profits of £1.6 million for the year to end-March, 28 per cent up. Earnings per share fell from 10.4p to 6.21p.

Ecobric bid

Zurich, a privately owned property developer, has made an agreed £9.4 million bid for Ecobric Holdings and has arranged for a placing of its own shares on the USM.

Phones are ringing for the telecommunications world



While Sir Ernest Harrison busily polishes Vodafone, Raci's golden egg, and seeks to protect it from the cuckoo in the nest, Mr Shelby Bryan, the chairman of Millicom, Lord Young of Graffham, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, has fired the gun in the race to become the next winner in the great telephone race.

On Thursday the estimable Young, who patently believes in the enterprise culture, said he would award between two and four licences to operate the next generation of cordless telephones — the CT2. Like the cellular telephones before them CT2s will have a huge impact. Unlike cellular telephones, they are designed from the beginning to bring mobile communications to the mass market. They will cost probably £150 compared with £1,000 and more for telephones of the Vodafone and Cellnet variety.

The CT2 is more limited than a telephone linked with a cellular network — it can be used only within 200 yards of a base station (a "Telepoint") about the size of a biscuit tin. Initially it may be limited to outgoing calls though a second stage CT2 is equipped with a pager through which the CT2 user would receive messages. Users would buy a handset, supplied with an authentication code for billing and verification. Calls would be carried through the Telepoints — set up at stations, airports, in stores, hotels, office PABXs

and homes — to the Mercury or British Telecom networks.

A Logica survey last year forecast 1.2 million cordless telephones in Britain by 1992. Taking a cue that this week Vodafone installed its 200,000th cellular telephone and is looking to 500,000 installations by the same year, the Logica estimate is far too low. We are talking here of a mass market for a high quality digital product which everyone can understand and operate.

So far 15 companies have expressed an interest in CT2 licences. All Lord Young would say was that BT and Mercury, a subsidiary of Cable and Wireless, would not "automatically" be given a licence. With Vodafone, they do start with the advantage of having a network and will be in there pitching with every chance of succeeding. More over the Telepoints or "Phonepoints" could be attached to a cellular network in a way that would enable users in transit by train, bus or taxi to make urgent calls "on the move".

There is a division of interest in CT2 between equipment manufacturing and

operating the service. With the latter, it Vodafone is a fair guide, likely to be much more profitable. It will take time to establish the system and profits are probably three years out. But the companies which are ahead are Ferranti and Orbital (Plessey-Raci). BT is seemingly at odds with STC and Shaye (Clive Sinclair) is an unknown quantity.

Of these Ferranti is the most interesting from an investment angle. The shares have come up this year to 95p and after an unexceptional set of results, coupled with the facts that since the ISC merger the company relies for 80 per cent of its profits on defence business and is dollar dependent, they are considered by some analysts to be pricey.

I think not, as a long-term investment. Miracles rarely happen overnight but CT2 should put Ferranti in an altogether better light, especially at a time when prospects for the core business have improved with the Saudi Tornado order and the development of the European Fighter Aircraft.

Unlike Vodafone and Cellnet, Ferranti would not have an exclusive CT2 operating licence. Against that start up CT2 costs are low. The manufacturing and licensing company is Libera Developments in which Ferranti has a 25 per cent stake. The operator would be Creditphone. 80 per cent Ferranti owned.

Telecommunications is the world to be in.

Silly season in the stock market

Geoffrey Lewis, one of the most experienced and perceptive market-makers I know, drily observed that at present "there is no stock market, only a market in stocks." No one can say we are back in a bull market; nor is the market likely to regain complete confidence when interest rates are rising, sterling rides a sea of uncertainties and the tone of economic news is squawky. On the other hand (famous phrase) the underlying trend of the equity indices this year has been up and the prophets of doom who saw a second crash as the inevitable sequel to October's collapse have fallen silent.

My own view remains that we have seen the worst and British ordinary shares have begun to climb from the trough. Company earnings (and dividends) are rising and while the already twice-bitten fund managers sit timidly on their hands, funds available for investment are growing. The retreat into cash after the October debacle took the institutions' liquid funds up to £27 billion by the end of 1987 and the figure is probably higher now. When they decide to move decisively back into British equities — and they will all do so together — the impact on share prices will be sudden and sharp.

That is not likely to happen for a while. The trough has slippery sides. Bank base rates have been raised six times in seven weeks; the balance of payments deficit this year will not be £4 billion as forecast at Budget time but £10 billion (at best); and the Chancellor has admitted that inflation will end the year above the forecast 4 per cent (4.6

per cent) and will continue to rise until mid-1989 (6 per cent) before falling.

These revisions raise critical questions. It is pretty plain that while purging inflation from the system remains "the ultimate objective" of Thatcherite economic and financial management, for the time being the ultimate will not be sought at the expense of a healthy, if tapered, rate of growth. The second question is whether the Chancellor, given his revised view of inflation, believes that 10½ per cent base rates are as far up the scale as he needs to go to scotch "excessive" spending. He will not want to see the pound higher against the mark. But if the currency markets sense that British interest rates will be pushed even higher to curb consumption and keep inflation within the new forecast, sterling will rise. The difficult choice then is between endeavouring to contain sterling through intervention in the foreign exchange markets, which Mrs Thatcher does not like, and lowering interest rates and making credit cheaper, which the Chancellor would not like. Probably the best answer is for everyone to go away in August and think of other things!

Building clout

But if we have no market flowing or ebbing like an unmistakable tide, we do have, as Mr Lewis said, a market in stocks. The light is focused of course on takeovers, real and imagined. While the rumour machine works 24 hours a day when the Stock Exchange is acutely

short of business and it is easy to be carried away into the wrong situations, I have no doubt that sectors of industry are in an important phase of reconstruction through acquisition and merger. Electronics, food and publishing (look at Reed International, at 468p probably worth almost twice that) are in the public eye; insurance is about to move to centre stage; movement has begun in earnest in construction.

P&O's stake in Taylor Woodrow, raised this week from 6 to 8.6 per cent, is much more likely to break the logjam in construction than Trafalgar's more modest holding in Richard Costain, which is likely to be sold. Sir Jeffrey Sterling, who sang a duet in harmony with Sir Frank Gibb when they revealed P&O's 6 per cent, does not make hostile bids. Nor is he by nature a buyer without a strategic purpose.

It would, for example, make excellent sense — and the timing would be right — to twist Sir Frank's arm (persuade him, that is) to take Bovis from P&O in exchange for say 20 per cent of Woodrow's equity. Woodrow is a fine company, tired of hearing of imminent takeovers and thus amenable to having a protective layer in the form of a big minority shareholder with whom it felt comfortable.

The reasoning behind most of the acquisitions and mergers we are about to see (some may not go beyond the cross-holding stage) is the same: in an expanding international environment most British companies, even leaders in their own industries, are still too small to have the necessary clout.

Merrydown rises 16%



I'll drink to that: Richard Purdey, the managing director (Photograph: Harry Kerr)

Merrydown Wine, the Sussex cider-maker, shone through a wet summer and warmed a chilly Christmas to produce a 16.3 per cent increase in pre-tax profits for the year to end-May, at £1.48 million.

Turnover rose by 11.8 per cent to £11.98 million, even though the British drank 2 per cent less cider last summer. Merrydown won a record share of the Christmas market, and says Mr Richard Purdey, the managing direc-

tor, "maintained this momentum through the final quarter."

Earnings per share rose from 19.84p to 22.67p, and a 5p-a-share final dividend is recommended, making 6p for the year, up 12.5 per cent. Shareholders also have a one-for-eight scrip issue.

Merrydown has extended capacity by 50 per cent in the past year, and will spend £700,000 this year as it widens its product range.

• H.P. Bulmer Holdings has acquired Symonds Cider and English Wine from Greenall Whitley of Lancashire. Symonds makes Drystone and Scrumpy Jack ciders, which sell in the North-west and the Midlands, and Symonds apple juices.

Net assets were £4.7 million at the last count. "We paid quite a bit more," said Mr John Rudgard, the Bulmer managing director.

Healthy interims at Nestor-BNA

By Carol Ferguson

Nestor-BNA, Britain's biggest nursing agency, yesterday announced a 50 per cent jump in pre-tax profits to £1.6 million in its first interim statement since obtaining a full listing on the Stock Exchange last November.

Profits were boosted by a drop in interest charges on significantly reduced borrowings, resulting from the £4 million cash raised by the public flotation.

Earnings per share in the six months rose 13 per cent to 2.95p, and shareholders will receive an interim dividend of 0.8p net.

Its nursing agency division, British Nursing Association, which saw operating profits increase 12 per cent, contributed £1.33 million — about

three-quarters of total operating profits.

The group's four nursing homes and hospitals and its doctors' deputising service contributed the balance in approximately equal proportions.

Mr Mike Rogers, the group managing director, said that BNA, whose commission is based on a percentage of its nurses' salaries, is a direct beneficiary of any pay rises awarded.

"So far, the nurses have only had a 4 per cent pay rise from April this year, but they will get further rises of between 8 per cent and 25 per cent once the grading is complete, sometime in November," Mr Rogers said yesterday.

Midsummer pays £6.5m for pubs

By Martin Waller

Midsummer Leisure, the public houses to snooker halls operator, has bought nine traditional pubs in London for up to £6.5 million.

The deal brings to the group a fringe City property which, in itself, could be worth more than £2 million.

Midsummer is buying EJ Rose, a private group which owns such City premises as Simpsons and the Jamaica Wine House, both off Cornhill. It is paying half cash and half new shares.

The Midsummer stable of public houses in the capital now stands at 20. It was recently expanded by the acquisition of Brew's Brewery, whose houses trade under the Firkin name.

Mr Adam Page, the Mid-

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BT: transplant patient doing well

By Colin Narbrough

Mr Iain Vallance, the British Telecom chairman, was acting like a rather confident head surgeon when he addressed the company's annual meeting at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham yesterday.

To illustrate how challenging his job is, he employed the risky analogy of the human body.

Only 1,200 of BT's 1.3 million shareholders were there to hear him, reflecting the board's choice of the last Friday in July for the meeting and the dwindling shareholder base.

The heart, lungs and so on were equivalent to BT's exchanges. Mr Vallance said, while the brain was the computer system which gave the network intelligence. The transmission system — cables, microwaves and satellite links — were the nervous system.

All this complex and sophisticated structure could be found behind the simple telephone socket on your wall at home, he told a hushed audience.

"What we are doing today is effectively replacing all the organs, the brain and the nervous system," Mr Vallance said. "But not only do we have to keep the old and the new organs

working in parallel, we also have to allow the body to grow at the rate of some 10 per cent per year."

BT, in fact, grew only 9.1 per cent last year for a turnover of £10.2 billion. Profits were, however, 10.9 per cent up at £2.3 billion.

Mr Vallance, sticking to his body analogy, saw further complications in as much as BT was simultaneously "changing the rhesus factor of the blood by converting from analogue to digital technology."

He admitted that the sheer scale of what the company was doing could cause problems in the short-term, but that overall the programme of changing from old to new while continuing to improve quality of service has gone smoothly.

The new price formula recently thrashed out with Ofel, the industry watchdog, tightened the screw for BT and represented a "tough target." But he was confident that sufficient funds could be generated to finance BT's £2.4 billion investment programme and still give a good return on shareholders' investment.

As evidence, he firmly rejected one shareholder's call for lowering the planned dividend payment of 5.75p. Mr

Vallance said 1987 had produced a very satisfactory financial performance, with a marked recovery from the service problems of earlier in the year.

He said he was convinced the company's combination of financial strengths, technological skill, management determination and an able workforce would allow it to operate successfully and take its place as one of the world's leading telecommunications groups.

On improvements in quality, he said three key measures had been used. Figures of performance for repairs cleared within two working days clearly showed steady improvement.

The same positive trend could be seen in providing services to homes and businesses, and the 90 per cent serviceability target for pay-phones had been achieved.

Itemized billing would be available to half of BT's customers in 1990, with a 90 per cent level in the London area. This type of billing would be certain to work in the customer's favour, he added.

For the nostalgic, the question of the future of the old red telephone booths was raised by several shareholders. Mr Vallance assured them that 1,000 would be kept.

0 Is divided, a Can divided, b Co
 stack split, c Es stock split, d Can
 buy two or more of above, e Ex all (a
 two or more of above), Dealing
 volunteer days: (1) Monday, (2) Tuesday,
 (3) Wednesday, (4) Thursday, (5) Friday

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

هكذا من الاله

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No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Saga Holidays	Leisure	
2	Bank of Scotland	Bank/Discount	
3	Provision	Food	
4	Rediffon (as)	Building/Roads	
5	Braxton	Property	
6	Burnah (as)	Oil/Gas	
7	Microgas	Electricals	
8	Duxon Grp (as)	Drapery/Shops	
9	Ward White	Drapery/Shops	
10	Maris Spencer (as)	Drapery/Shops	
11	Kwik	Motor/Aircraft	
12	Cowie (T)	Motor/Aircraft	
13	Wills Gp	Industrial S-Z	
14	RMC Gp (as)	Building/Roads	
15	Plattans	Motor/Aircraft	
16	Howden	Industrial E-K	
17	Thornsons	Food	
18	Reckitt Colman (as)	Industrial L-R	
19	Realty Useful	Leisure	
20	Century	Oil/Gas	
21	Lung Prop	Property	
22	Bank (as)	Breweries	
23	Restaur (as)	Industrial L-R	
24	AB Food (as)	Food	
25	New London Oil	Oil/Gas	
26	Blackwood Hodge	Industrial A-D	
27	Jordan (Thomas)	Industrial E-K	
28	Chaylton	Property	
29	Beam	Drapery/Shops	
30	MEPC (as)	Property	
31	GEC (as)	Electricals	
32	Berchem (as)	Industrial A-D	
33	Cable Wireless (as)	Electricals	
34	Jerome (S)	Textiles	
35	General Motor	Motor/Aircraft	
36	Nyrdal Metal	Industrial A-D	
37	ETA (as)	Industrial A-D	
38	Fesco	Chemicals/Plas	
39	Westland	Motor/Aircraft	
40	Lloyds (as)	Bank/Discount	
41	Unit Newspapers (as)	Newspapers/Pub	
42	Wade Furnities	Industrial S-Z	
43	Nax Asia Ml	Bank/Discount	
44	VSEL	Industrial S-Z	
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Company	High	Low	Stock	Price	Dividends
...

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

Company	High	Low	Stock	Price	Dividends
...

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

Company	High	Low	Stock	Price	Dividends
...

UNDATED

Company	High	Low	Stock	Price	Dividends
...

INDEX-LINKED

Company	High	Low	Stock	Price	Dividends
...

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

Company	High	Low	Stock	Price	Dividends
...

ELECTRICALS

Company	High	Low	Stock	Price	Dividends
...

INDUSTRIALS A-D

Company	High	Low	Stock	Price	Dividends
...

INDUSTRIALS E-K

Company	High	Low	Stock	Price	Dividends
...

INDUSTRIALS L-R

Company	High	Low	Stock	Price	Dividends
...

INDUSTRIALS S-Z

Company	High	Low	Stock	Price	Dividends
...

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Company	High	Low	Stock	Price	Dividends
...

FOODS

Company	High	Low	Stock	Price	Dividends
...

FINANCE, LAND

Company	High	Low	Stock	Price	Dividends
...

E-K

Company	High	Low	Stock	Price	Dividends
...

L-R

Company	High	Low	Stock	Price	Dividends
...

S-Z

Company	High	Low	Stock	Price	Dividends
...

Account ends on firm note

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began July 18. Dealings ended yesterday. \$Contango day August 1. Settlement day August 8. \$Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (as) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES: PAGE 29).

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Saga Holidays	Leisure	
2	Bank of Scotland	Bank/Discount	
3	Provision	Food	
4	Rediffon (as)	Building/Roads	
5	Braxton	Property	
6	Burnah (as)	Oil/Gas	
7	Microgas	Electricals	
8	Duxon Grp (as)	Drapery/Shops	
9	Ward White	Drapery/Shops	
10	Maris Spencer (as)	Drapery/Shops	
11	Kwik	Motor/Aircraft	
12	Cowie (T)	Motor/Aircraft	
13	Wills Gp	Industrial S-Z	
14	RMC Gp (as)	Building/Roads	
15	Plattans	Motor/Aircraft	
16	Howden	Industrial E-K	
17	Thornsons	Food	
18	Reckitt Colman (as)	Industrial L-R	
19	Realty Useful	Leisure	
20	Century	Oil/Gas	
21	Lung Prop	Property	
22	Bank (as)	Breweries	
23	Restaur (as)	Industrial L-R	
24	AB Food (as)	Food	
25	New London Oil	Oil/Gas	
26	Blackwood Hodge	Industrial A-D	
27	Jordan (Thomas)	Industrial E-K	
28	Chaylton	Property	
29	Beam	Drapery/Shops	
30	MEPC (as)	Property	
31	GEC (as)	Electricals	
32	Berchem (as)	Industrial A-D	
33	Cable Wireless (as)	Electricals	
34	Jerome (S)	Textiles	
35	General Motor	Motor/Aircraft	
36	Nyrdal Metal	Industrial A-D	
37	ETA (as)	Industrial A-D	
38	Fesco	Chemicals/Plas	
39	Westland	Motor/Aircraft	
40	Lloyds (as)	Bank/Discount	
41	Unit Newspapers (as)	Newspapers/Pub	
42	Wade Furnities	Industrial S-Z	
43	Nax Asia Ml	Bank/Discount	
44	VSEL	Industrial S-Z	
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BREWERIES

Company	High	Low	Stock	Price	Dividends
...

BUILDING, ROADS

Company	High	Low	Stock	Price	Dividends
...

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Company	High	Low	Stock	Price	Dividends
...

FOODS

Company	High	Low	Stock	Price	Dividends
...

FINANCE, LAND

Company	High	Low	Stock	Price	Dividends
...

E-K

Company	High	Low	Stock	Price	Dividends
...

L-R

Company	High	Low	Stock	Price	Dividends
...

S-Z

Company	High	Low	Stock	Price	Dividends
...

INSURANCE

Company	High	Low	Stock	Price	Dividends
...

LEISURE

Company	High	Low	Stock	Price	Dividends
...

MOTOR, AIRCRAFT

Company	High	Low	Stock	Price	Dividends
...

MINING

Company	High	Low	Stock	Price	Dividends
...

OVERSEAS TRADERS

Company	High	Low	Stock	Price	Dividends
...

PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

Company	High	Low	Stock	Price	Dividends
...

PROPERTY

Company	High	Low	Stock	Price	Dividends
...

SHIPPING

Company	High	Low	Stock	Price	Dividends
...

SHOES, LEATHER

Company	High	Low	Stock	Price	Dividends
...

TEXTILES

Company	High	Low	Stock	Price	Dividends
...

TOBACCO

Company	High	Low	Stock	Price	Dividends
...

WINE, SPIRITS

Company	High	Low	Stock	Price	Dividends
...

YACHTS

Company	High	Low	Stock	Price	Dividends
...

ZOO

Company	High	Low	Stock	Price	Dividends
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2	Bank of Scotland	Bank/Discount	
3	Provision	Food	
4	Rediffon (as)	Building/Roads	
5	Braxton	Property	
6	Burnah (as)	Oil/Gas	
7	Microgas	Electricals	
8	Duxon Grp (as)	Drapery/Shops	
9	Ward White	Drapery/Shops	
10	Maris Spencer (as)	Drapery/Shops	
11	Kwik	Motor/Aircraft	
12	Cowie (T)	Motor/Aircraft	
13	Wills Gp	Industrial S-Z	
14	RMC Gp (as)	Building/Roads	
15	Plattans	Motor/Aircraft	
16	Howden	Industrial E-K	
17	Thornsons	Food	
18	Reckitt Colman (as)	Industrial L-R	
19	Realty Useful	Leisure	
20	Century	Oil/Gas	
21	Lung Prop	Property	
22	Bank (as)	Breweries	
23	Restaur (as)	Industrial L-R	
24	AB Food (as)	Food	
25	New London Oil	Oil/Gas	
26	Blackwood Hodge	Industrial A-D	
27	Jordan (Thomas)	Industrial E-K	
28	Chaylton	Property	
29	Beam	Drapery/Shops	
30	MEPC (as)	Property	
31	GEC (as)	Electricals	
32	Berchem (as)	Industrial A-D	
33	Cable Wireless (as)	Electricals	
34	Jerome (S)	Textiles	
35	General Motor	Motor/Aircraft	
36	Nyrdal Metal	Industrial A-D	
37	ETA (as)	Industrial A-D	
38	Fesco	Chemicals/Plas	
39	Westland	Motor/Aircraft	
40	Lloyds (as)	Bank/Discount	
41	Unit Newspapers (as)	Newspapers/Pub	
42	Wade Furnities	Industrial S-Z	
43	Nax Asia Ml	Bank/Discount	
44	VSEL	Industrial S-Z	
© Times Newspapers Ltd. Daily Total			

OVERSEAS TRADERS

Company	High	Low	Stock	Price	Dividends
...

PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

Company	High	Low	Stock	Price	Dividends
...

PROPERTY

Q	318	265	47	15
Q	320	262	57	27
Q	327	317	43	13
Q	325	370	68	16
Q	320	308	41	18
Q	340	470	84	22
Q	78	55	06	24
Q	126	130	32	16

PROPERTY

Q	172	177	38	10
Q	189	185	37	20
Q	175	180	17	17
Q	118	177	11	12
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FAMILY MONEY

Gaps in SIB scheme

The compensation scheme that should at last give investors some real confidence in the effectiveness of the Financial Services Act comes into effect four weeks from today. But investors should not be too complacent. It will not protect against crashing markets and it will not protect all your funds.

If an authorized firm fails, investors will normally have the first £30,000 of their investment replaced in full and 90 per cent of the next £20,000 — a total of £48,000. This is by no means guaranteed, however. The fund is limited to paying out a total of £100 million in any one year. So if claims are running high, the fund managers can start scaling down claims.

Someone who suffers a loss in a year when claims run high will not be compensated to the same maximum level which will apply in years when compensation claims do not threaten to exceed the limit. There is no appeals mechanism for aggrieved investors to challenge the decisions of the management company, other than by judicial review.

The fund applies only to authorized firms — those who invest with interim authorized firms do not merit the protection of the scheme.

Under the Financial Services Act, 34,000 firms have now been



Walker: Discretion needed
authorized, but a further 2,000 are in limbo with interim authorization. Investors have no way of knowing whether these firms are at the back of the applications queue or are under scrutiny because irregularities have been spotted.

David Walker, the chairman of the Securities and Investments Board, said it was up to investors to use their judgement in dealing with these firms. Investors who use one of the 34 stockbrokers who have interim authorization or an Irish stockbroker should remember that the Stock Exchange compensation fund is due to be abandoned as the SIB industry-wide scheme comes in on August 27.

But the Stock Exchange is considering extending the scheme for a limited period to cover

interim authorized firms.

So how can investors gain maximum protection from the scheme?

First, it may be wise to parcel up investments into £30,000 lots so each will qualify for 100 per cent compensation.

This may be more practicable in theory than in practice as some firms — stock brokers and portfolio management companies — will not handle what they consider small parcels of funds. Husbands and wives who invest jointly will be limited to one stab at the compensation fund — a maximum of £48,000. So couples might be wise to split their investments and hold them in their own names to double the amount of compensation they can claim.

Those who already hold investments with authorized firms will be able to make a claim on the fund if the investment turns sour. But any claim will be limited to the value of the investment on 27 August rather than at the time of investment.

No one — and that includes investors in Barlow Clowes — will be able to make a claim on money lost before August 27.

So if you have money invested with an authorized firm on-shore, you do not have to take any special action to qualify under the fund. However, if you have money

invested off-shore in unauthorized funds then your only claim will be against financial advisers authorized under the Financial Services Act to conduct business in the UK who advised you to make the investment.

The compensation fund will only apply to advice given after 27 August. So investors with off-shore investments should return to their advisers after August 27 to get fresh advice — in writing — a sort of bed-and-breakfasting of advice.

The adviser will then be able to confirm his advice to invest in the same fund and the funds will then qualify for the compensation scheme. He may well recommend changes. Advisers should be reminded that they are not allowed to churn portfolios to gather more commission.

But any change in advice may be due to a new degree of caution brought on by the collapse of Barlow Clowes and the strict guidelines of "know your customer" and "best advice" under the Financial Services Act.

The Consumers' Association is dismayed; it wanted the maximum pay-out to be raised to £100,000 and it is worried by the £100-million-a-year limit, which may lead to inequitable treatment of investors.

Vivien Goldsmith

Special account mystery

More than a thousand National Westminster Bank customers got a nasty shock recently when they received a bank statement showing that their Special Reserve Account had been closed and the balance transferred elsewhere, writes Vivien Goldsmith.

"I thought a hacker had got into my account," said Jim Fisher, a public-relations consultant. "I got the statement one evening and worried about it all night — just think what a letter like that could have done to an elderly person with a weak heart."

National Westminster has "hundreds of thousands" of Special Reserve account-holders — the exact number is considered a commercial secret — and when the account was changed to include a cheque book, it was decided to switch the administration from a central office in Birmingham to the branches.

This involved closing the original account and transferring funds to a new account based at a branch. Letters were due to be sent out by a direct mail firm on July 13 and 14.

The accounts were then closed on July 18 and closing statements



Sue Walker: No letter at all explaining the closure of her account.

sent to all customers a few days later. But more than a thousand customers did not receive the original letter. The first they knew about any change was that their account had been closed and the funds moved to another account — not one they had opened or knew anything about.

A NatWest official said that this was the largest exercise of its type undertaken by the bank and most clients received the explanatory letter before the statement showing that their account had been closed.

Mr Fisher did eventually receive the original letter, not an amended one with any hint of an apology.

He remains sceptical of the estimate number of delayed letters given by the bank, adding: "There

are only eight of us in my office, and two of us discovered that we both had Special Reserve Accounts and neither of us got the letter before the account was closed."

My account is in Bristol and my colleague's in south Croydon, so it was not a matter of just one area or branch being affected."

His colleague, Sue Walker, has still not received any letter at all explaining the closure of her account. She said: "I was not in such a panic as Mr Fisher because I knew about him, but I hand-delivered a letter to my bank on the morning I got my statement and I have not heard a word since — not a letter, not a phone call — nothing. I had only asked what had happened to my money."

Easier cash for eight million



The two major card-cash machine networks, Link and Matrix, are to merge next spring.

This will give the 8,000,000 card-holders access to more than 2,000 dispensers.

After the marriage the network will be known by a single name, but it has not yet been decided whether it will be Link or Matrix.

John Hardy, chairman of Link, said: "We tried Mink and Matrix, but they did not work. Using one of the existing names will help to cut the costs of the change, which will be shared by all members."

Link has 4.5 million members and 1,300 automated-teller machines (ATMs), and its members include the Abbey National Building Society and Girobank.

Matrix has 1.6 million members and 660 ATMs; members include the Alliance & Leicester, National & Provincial and Bradford & Bingley Building Societies.

The Nationwide Anglia and Woolwich are members of both since the merger of socie-

ties which belonged to both networks.

The Bank of Scotland, which has a reciprocal arrangement with Matrix, will continue the arrangement with the enlarged group.

Tony Stoughton-Harris, chairman of Matrix, said: "Overnight, millions of cash-card-holders will have access to twice the number of cash machines — a major boost in service at no extra cost to them whatsoever."

A new joint company will be formed which will be wholly owned by its members.

The way in which costs will be allocated has not yet been decided but it is probable that the number of ATMs provided and the extent to which members use the network's machines will be taken into consideration, and not just asset size.

No payment has been made by one organization to the other to set up the scheme, despite the fact that Link is so much larger than Matrix.

"Both organizations are growing rapidly," said Mr Hardy. "It seemed better to get on and do it rather than waste time haggling."

"We both need to invest in new central switching and doing it jointly will save money."

All ATMs will tell customers their balance as well as handing out cash, and some will also give full statements, and handle bill payments, cheque book requests and transfers between accounts.

BAILEY / SHATKIN
EST. 1919

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And a stockbroker. And a pensions consultant. And so on.

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3 UNIT TRUSTS

With over one thousand unit trusts available and more being launched each month, how do you know which to choose? In reality there are only three basic types of unit trust, and M&G has an outstandingly successful example of each:

Recovery Fund for capital growth, **Dividend Fund** for an increasing income, and **SECOND General** for a balance between income and growth.

You should remember that new funds or funds which suffer a change of management are likely to be more of a gamble than those which can point to a long and successful record. M&G's investment team has remained largely unchanged for many years, and our long-term performance record reflects this. Past performance cannot be a guarantee for the future, but it is usually the best measure you have of a fund's likelihood of achieving its objective.

The price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up. This means that unit trusts are a long-term investment and not suitable for money you may need at short notice.

Growth RECOVERY FUND

M&G Recovery Fund is probably the most successful unit trust ever launched, and the table below shows just how well it has achieved its aim of capital growth. The Fund buys the shares of companies which have fallen on hard times. Losses must be expected when a company fails to recover but the effect of a turnaround can be dramatic.

Year ended 31 DECEMBER	M&G RECOVERY	FT 100 INDEX	BUILDING SOCIETY
23 May '88	£5,000	£5,000	£5,000
1970	5,880	4,205	5,398
1975	13,200	5,560	7,330
1980	13,200	6,644	10,770
1985	135,400	24,737	18,202
27 JUL '88	287,080	34,598	19,555*

NOTES: All figures include reinvested income net of basic-rate tax. The Building Society figures are based on the average rate of a Building Society Share Account (Source: Central Statistical Office - Financial Statistics). M&G Recovery Fund figures are at realisation values. An investment of £5,000 in M&G Recovery Fund on 23 May 1969 would have grown to £277,080 by 27 July 1988 with net income reinvested. *Estimated.

FURTHER INFORMATION: On 27 July 1988 offered prices and estimated gross current yields were:

Recovery 562.7p 760.8p 3.45% 5.67%

Dividend 568.3p 1793.1p 4.86% 5.67%

SECOND 989.0p 2056.1p 3.09% 5.66%

The prices are calculated as at 9.15 am each business day. Prices and yields appear daily in the Financial Times. The spread is the difference between the offered price (at which you buy units) and the bid price (at which you sell). We have a discretion to vary the offering basis of the units and also the spread within a range, calculated in accordance with statutory regulations. An annual charge of up to 1% of each fund's value - currently 1% for Recovery and SECOND and 1.4% for Dividend - plus VAT is deducted from gross income for accumulation units is reinvested to increase their value and for income units it is distributed net of basic-rate tax on the following dates:

Recovery Dividend SECOND

Distributions 20 Feb 15 Jun 15 Feb

Applications required by 23 Dec '88 18 Nov '88 9 Dec '88

for next distribution on 20 Feb '89 15 Nov '89 15 Feb '89

Capital gains tax 1988-89. An individual's first £2,000 of net capital gains will be exempt from tax. Gains in excess of £2,000 will be added to the individual's other income and taxed at the rates of tax applicable. Gains arising before 31st March 1982 are not now subject to capital gains tax, and gains since 31st March 1982 are subject to capital gains tax. You can buy or sell units on any business day. Contracts for purchase or sale will be due for settlement by the date shown on the contract note. The Trustee for Dividend and Recovery is Barclays Bank Trust Co. Limited and for SECOND is Lloyd's Bank Plc. The Funds are all under-charge investments and are authorised under the Financial Services Act 1986.

Income DIVIDEND FUND

If you need income which will grow over the years M&G Dividend Fund could be your ideal investment. The Fund invests in a wide range of ordinary shares and aims to provide above average and increasing income and a yield about 50% higher than the FT Actuaries All-Share Index.

Year ended 31 DECEMBER	M&G DIVIDEND	BUILDING SOCIETY	M&G DIVIDEND	BUILDING SOCIETY
6 May '84	—	—	£5,000	£5,000
1985	£398	£189	5,100	5,000
1970	231	247	5,398	5,000
1975	454	365	8,150	5,000
1980	890	517	12,140	5,000
1985	1,139	435	32,580	5,000
27 JUL '88	1,840	327*	53,410	5,000

NOTES: All income figures shown are net of basic-rate tax. The Building Society figures are based on the average rate of a Building Society Share Account (Source: Central Statistical Office - Financial Statistics). M&G Dividend Fund figures are at realisation values. An investment of £5,000 in M&G Dividend Fund on 6 May 1984 would have grown to £53,410 by 27 July 1988 with net income reinvested. *Estimated.

Balanced SECOND GENERAL

M&G SECOND General Trust Fund aims for consistent growth of both capital and income and has a 32-year performance record which is second to none. It has a wide spread of shares mainly in British companies and expected yield in line with the FT Actuaries All-Share Index.

Year ended 31 DECEMBER	M&G SECOND	FT 100 INDEX	BUILDING SOCIETY
31 Dec '56	£5,000	£5,000	£5,000
1960	5,790	10,040	5,835
1965	15,650	13,115	8,965
1970	23,240	16,270	8,712
1975	39,820	19,810	11,829
1980	97,700	30,800	17,380
1985	273,000	88,120	26,147
27 JUL '88	479,580	123,245	31,558*

NOTES: All figures include reinvested income net of basic-rate tax. The Building Society figures are based on the average rate of a Building Society Share Account (Source: Central Statistical Office - Financial Statistics). M&G SECOND General Fund figures are at realisation values. An investment of £5,000 in M&G SECOND General Fund on 31 Dec 1956 would have grown to £479,580 by 27 July 1988 with net income reinvested. *Estimated.

Scheme Particulars will be sent with your contract note. However, if you would like the Scheme Particulars before investing, or the latest fund reports, you can obtain them free of charge from M&G Securities Limited, M&G House, Victoria Road, Chelmsford CM1 1FB. Tel: (0245) 266266.

INVESTMENT FROM £1,000

To: M&G SECURITIES LIMITED, M&G HOUSE, VICTORIA ROAD, CHELMSFORD CM1 1FB. Please invest the sum(s) indicated below in the Fund(s) of my choice (minimum investment in each Fund: £1,000) in ACCUMULATION/INCOME units (delete as applicable) or Accumulation units will be issued for Recovery and SECOND and Income units will be issued for Dividend) at the price ruling on receipt of this application. DO NOT SEND ANY MONEY.

A contract note will be sent to you stating exactly how much you own and the settlement date. Your certificate will follow shortly. In entering into this contract with M&G you will not have any right to cancel the contract under the Financial Services (Cancellation) Rules 1988.

RECOVERY (Net £1,000) £ -00

DIVIDEND (Net £1,000) £ -00

SECOND (Net £1,000) £ -00

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

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FAMILY MONEY

Do nicely, Tovarish

Soviet citizens are about to experience the joy of credit cards. The first Soviet Visa card, right, has been issued to Yuri Titov, secretary general of the USSR National Olympic Committee, and more will follow. Visa has provided funds for the Olympic movement in the Soviet Union, as well as other countries. The USSR is also to get electronic card payments systems. At present, cash is the preferred means of payment in the Soviet Union. Girobank is sponsoring Oxfam's first special projects manager via a special Oxfam Visa card. The bank will donate £5 to Oxfam the first time one of these cards is used and then 25p for every £100 spent with the card. None of this sponsorship will cost the customer anything.



Clients lose \$200m to share ring



Winstable: I did the right thing

The public prosecutor in Bochum in West Germany has broken up what is believed to be a large ring of international share fraudsters who have allegedly swindled investors out of an estimated \$200 million.

Among the many British victims of the alleged fraud is a London student who has been forced to give up his studies and take a job to repay £3,000 he borrowed to invest in dud shares.

The allegations centre on a Swiss firm of stockbrokers, Chelsea Financial, based in Basel. Last year the firm used an address in the West End to attract British clients. (It has no connection with the similarly named British company, which is based in Fulham and belongs to the watchdog body Fimbra.)

Chelsea is said to have consistently promoted shares in certain companies on the basis of false claims that the companies were subject to takeover. The suggestion is that the shares sold to clients were bought in advance at a much lower price by associates of the company, giving Chelsea a massive profit from every sale.

Confirming that many arrests have been made, Bochum's chief prosecutor, Hans Durrfeld, told *The Times* that he has examined: "They were buying shares at about five cents and selling them at \$1.31c".

One of Chelsea's "recruiting offices" is in Dortmund, near Bochum, and arrests have been made there as well as in Hamburg and Nuremberg. Swiss police, acting in co-operation with the Germans, have arrested Chelsea director Gerard Fekkes, a Dutchman. Also arrested in Basel was a senior member of Chelsea's staff, who had used the name Schreiner when dealing with investors but whose true name is Sussmann. Both men have been extradited to Germany where they are in custody.

The firm recruited customers all over Europe by advertising free subscriptions

to an investment newsletter, *Flash Report*, but it then subjected them to high-pressure telephone calls until they agreed to buy shares.

Flash Report had a poor track record of share tipping and Chelsea's main promotions in it and on the telephone have been universally disastrous. They include:

• Data Link, an American finance company said to be taking over two banks in Colorado; the deal collapsed when authorities seized the banks, which were almost bankrupt.

• Sherwood Financial, described as "the absolute favourite on the recommendation lists of several European and American brokerage houses", was said to have taken over a thriving travel agency and two successful insurance companies in England. This deal fell through when the travel agency went bust and one of the insurance companies was found to be dormant.

• Messidor, a Utah mining and investment company,

said to own a prominent commodity trading business in Holland; the commodity trading firm has recently been changed in Amsterdam with offering investment services to the public without a licence.

• Clevo, tipped as "one of the most interesting Canadian mining shares", about to be quoted on the stock exchange when its founder lost his life in a tragic accident; in fact its founder was a veteran swindler whose was shot by one of his victims.

Mike Gilmour, an investor in Cumbria, paid Chelsea \$3,250 for Messidor shares but ran into difficulties when he wanted to sell. "I was offered a transfer into something called Vanguard Financial," he says. "The promise was that they were coming to the market."

In fact, Vanguard was already traded on the high-risk over-the-counter market in the United States. It has since collapsed in the face of fraud charges brought by the watchdog Securities & Exchange Commission.

Another investor who sent a reply coupon to Chelsea's London address was a student who has asked not to be named. Unable to qualify for a grant, he was paying his own way through college, living on savings and on loans from his family. He invested and lost - \$3,000.

"I borrowed quite a lot of money so I have had to give up my course and start work again," he said this week. "My family know nothing at all about this."

Chelsea's Basel offices were

unmanned this week and the telephone had been disconnected. But the firm may well have had some inkling that official action was being planned. Chelsea customers in England are already being contacted by new firms with links to the Basel business.

A new company, Stockwell Financial, has set up in Lucerne. Its directors are identical to the three names known to the Swiss authorities as being behind Chelsea.

Adrian Winstable, a civil engineer from Leatherhead, was contacted a few weeks ago by Stockwell and eventually paid £1,000 for shares in a tiny US defence contractor. "I did all the right things," he says. "I only invested risk capital. I could afford to lose, and I even got a banker's reference on Stockwell." Many of Chelsea's salesforce are believed to have left Switzerland. Some have surfaced in Spain under the name Allied Chelsea. A London businessman who was a client of Chelsea in Basel was contacted two weeks ago from Switzerland and told in future he should dial a Madrid number to speak to his personal broker.

The number was for a company called Financial Services, which was negotiating a merger with Chelsea Financial.

Financial Services is a subsidiary of a Gibraltar share-dealing firm called International Finance & Management.

IFM's chairman, Bernard Klavir, is a Londoner who has lived mainly in Canada for the past 20 years. IFM should fit well into the Chelsea style of business as it has generated complaints to the Gibraltar authorities over deals in the shares of an obscure American company.

Mr Klavir himself is no stranger to the odd brush with the law; since 1973 he has been avoiding the Los Angeles police who want to serve him with an arrest warrant on share dealing charges.

Tony Hetherington

How to expand the safety net

Fund	Min Inv	Charges	Objective
Baring Select Managers	£500	5% initial 1% annual	Growth
Family of Funds (Henderson)	£1000	5.25% initial 1.5% annual	Growth
Family of Income Funds (Henderson)	£1000	5.25% initial 1.5% annual	Income

A unit trust invests in a spread of equities to reduce risk; so why not expand the safety net approach and have a unit trust that invests in other unit trusts?

Until recently, the Department of Trade and Industry forbade one company investing in the units of other groups. Now Baring Fund Managers and Henderson Unit Trust Management have been the first two groups to win DTI approval to venture into these uncharted waters.

"We realized we are not going to be the best at all things at all times," said Mark Skinner, sales director for Baring. "We will not have the best performing fund in every sector, so we wanted to have the ability to tap into the best."

The Baring Select Managers Fund, and two of Henderson's funds - the Family of Funds and the Family of Income Funds - attempt to do just that by seeking out the best unit trusts among the more than 1,000 UK authorized funds.

"We believe consumers will view the funds as good value for money," said Mr Chris Burrows, Henderson's deputy managing director, "especially when they are compared to a portfolio of unit trusts they have compiled themselves."

Mr Burrows believes the funds are good value because not only do they spread risk, but can switch from unit trust to unit trust without paying a front-end load, and without being liable for capital gains tax, as an individual would be.

The Department of Trade and Industry decided to allow such funds only if they did not double-charge customers on

Clay Owen

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You can start an M&G Unit Trust Savings Plan with as little as £25. You need not subscribe regularly but we strongly recommend that you do so, by completing the Bankers Order form. By saving a regular amount you make fluctuations in the stockmarket work to your advantage because more units are bought when their price is low than when it is high.

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The price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up.

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PERFORMANCE FIGURES TO JULY 1988

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M&G Dividend 2,685 10,912 31,076

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Building Society 1,826 4,578 8,598

All performance figures include income reinvested net of basic-rate tax. The figures for the M&G Funds are at realisation values. The Building Society figures are based on the average rate of Building Society Share Account (Source: Central Statistical Office - Financial Statistics). You should remember that past performance is no guarantee for the future.

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FAMILY MONEY

Time to drive a car bargain

If you pass a motor dealer's forecourt this weekend, the loudest sound you hear will be the purring of the owner. The new F registration comes in on Monday, and buyers can then flourish their new number plates. Some may even do so early. One or two dealers will open at midnight on Sunday so that customers can drive away from the ball and into the darkness as the clock strikes 12.

Sales are certain to be a record, although dealers are not the only people who stand to gain. Most new buyers use hire purchase or a loan to buy a car, so banks and finance houses should do very nicely. Most big manufacturers, including Ford, Fiat, Renault and Peugeot, offer free credit and now is the time to take advantage of it. Incentives such as free credit switch on and off like faulty light bulbs, but August, with the start of the new registrations, is the usual time for free credit to appear.

The forms of borrowing can vary. If you have a personal loan, it guarantees that the car is yours immediately you buy it. No one can take it from you if you default — the creditor has to sue you for debt instead. If you default on a hire-purchase agreement, the company can take the car back, but will need to get permission from the courts if you have already paid back more than a third of your loan.

The two kinds of contract have one crucial point in common. All the details are decided at the start. You borrow a fixed sum at a fixed interest

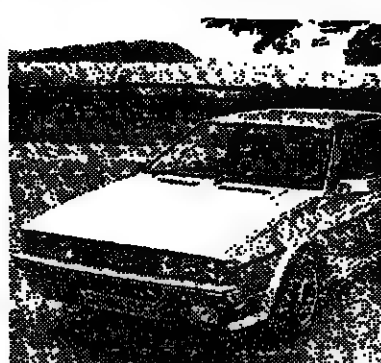
rate over a fixed time — usually two or three years, sometimes four.

Banks and finance companies are all keen to tempt you in, and special offers, competitions and prizes, all for limited periods only — the stuff of high street retailing for years — have suddenly come into banking with a whoosh. The Midland offers its borrowers discounts of 50 per cent on tyres and the chance to win a Jaguar XJ6. National Westminster provides you with free vehicle examination if you belong to the RAC, and special cheap rates (£27.50) to join if you do not, provided you take a loan. Borrow from Lloyds and there is a chance to win the weekly prize of one Escort Cabriolet.

So much for the pretty wrapping. The package inside and what you pay for the money you borrow are far more important. Every lender has to display an interest rate, labelled an APR — annual percentage rate. NatWest's loan came at an APR of 20; the Midland APR, which lasts until mid-October, comes to only 17.4. A Scotloan from the Bank of Scotland costs 17.7 APR.

If you go to a finance company directly, the figures on the same basis will work out between 20 and 23 per cent, although pinning down details on the phone is difficult. Most customers do not go to the finance companies directly, but reach them through the dealers where rates should be lower.

The various percentages have



Volkswagen Scirocco Scala: Note the registration

hardly altered in the past two months, although bank base rates have shot up from 7.5 to 10.5 per cent since June 1. Lenders know how crucial new registrations can be and will almost certainly raise rates once the spree is over.

Most dealers represent a finance company. Dealers earn a handsome commission from selling their loans, but will often sacrifice some of it to bring down rates and do more business. Alternatively, they can produce better terms for any car traded in. The demand for new cars means the market for used ones is particularly buoyant at the moment.

How can you tell what the trade-in value should be? You would manage to find *Glass's Guide* to secondhand prices, or the *CAP Guide*. Otherwise,

it is worth seeing what two or three different dealers are prepared to give you.

In the past, people have usually been far more concerned about whether they could finance the interest payments on the car from their monthly budgets than about the interest rates they have to pay. They have almost ignored it as a technicality. Today, people realize interest rates are important too.

Admittedly interest rates can sometimes sound too good to be true — and if so, first impressions may well be accurate. Dealers will often quote a "flat rate of interest", throwing in the APR almost as an after-thought.

The two are very different. Flat rates work on the assumption that you pay interest on the whole sum you borrowed, even when you have only £100 of the original £3,000 to repay. APRs allow for the gradual fall in your debt as you repay it.

It is hardly surprising that flat rates sound better than they are. The rule of thumb for translating them into APRs is to double them, and take away one. The true APR will appear in large letters on your agreement anyway.

Credit insurance can push up the costs, but can still make a lot of sense. It will pay off the loan automatically if you die, or are hit by some long-term illness, and you can even add on cover against the risk of redundancy. People actually buy secondhand cars in August, but rarely get free credit on them.

Tom Tickell

TOO SOON? TOO LATE?

Mercury can solve the problem of when to invest in unit trusts

In today's markets, timing your investment is a serious problem. The Mercury Capital Investment Plan can solve the problem by transferring your money progressively from a building society account into unit trusts over two years. Meanwhile it earns good interest, which goes to increase the total amount invested. The minimum investment is £1,000.

Mercury Fund Managers Ltd. is part of one of the UK's largest fund management groups and has a reputation for consistent long-term performance.

For full details of the Plan please return the coupon below, or telephone Kenneth Brown on 01-280 2860.

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BRIEFING

Cheap loans to cost more

■ Cheap loans provided by an employer will be a little less cheap now that the official rate of interest has been raised from 9.5 to 12 per cent. Directors and those earning £8,500 a year or more (the so-called higher-paid) pay tax on the difference between the actual and official rates. The interest levied on unpaid tax is also being raised, from 7.75 to 8.75 per cent. The Inland Revenue will also pay the same rate on repayments. The new rates apply from August 6 whether or not interest has already started to accrue.

Yorshire expands

■ The Yorkshire Building Society plans to take a stake in a quoted firm of stockbrokers, BWD Securities. The society is to open YBS Financial Advice Centres. There customers will find a dealing service, traditional stockbroking and portfolio management. The first will open in Castleford later this year; others will open first in Yorkshire, then nationwide. BWD charges 1.5 per cent with a minimum of £17.50, but the minimum through the

advice centres will be £20. Those with a minimum of £5,000 will be offered portfolio management using unit trusts.

Unit trust rules

The latest guidelines for new-style unit trusts investing in property or futures and options were published by the Department of Trade & Industry this week. Traditional unit trust managers are not clamouring to be allowed to invade these hitherto-banned areas of investment. But merchant banks that already run offshore property funds and groups that want a property option for a unit-trust-based pension may be keen to launch property funds. Existing futures and options dealers may want to launch unit trusts in their field, but existing unit trust managers are frightened by the risky nature of this sort of investment. Indeed, the Unit Trust Association hopes that the Securities and Investment Board will not allow these new-style funds to be marketed under the name "unit trusts". A third type of new trusts, mixed funds which have to invest in at least three of four categories — securities, money markets, futures and options and property — is also envisaged.

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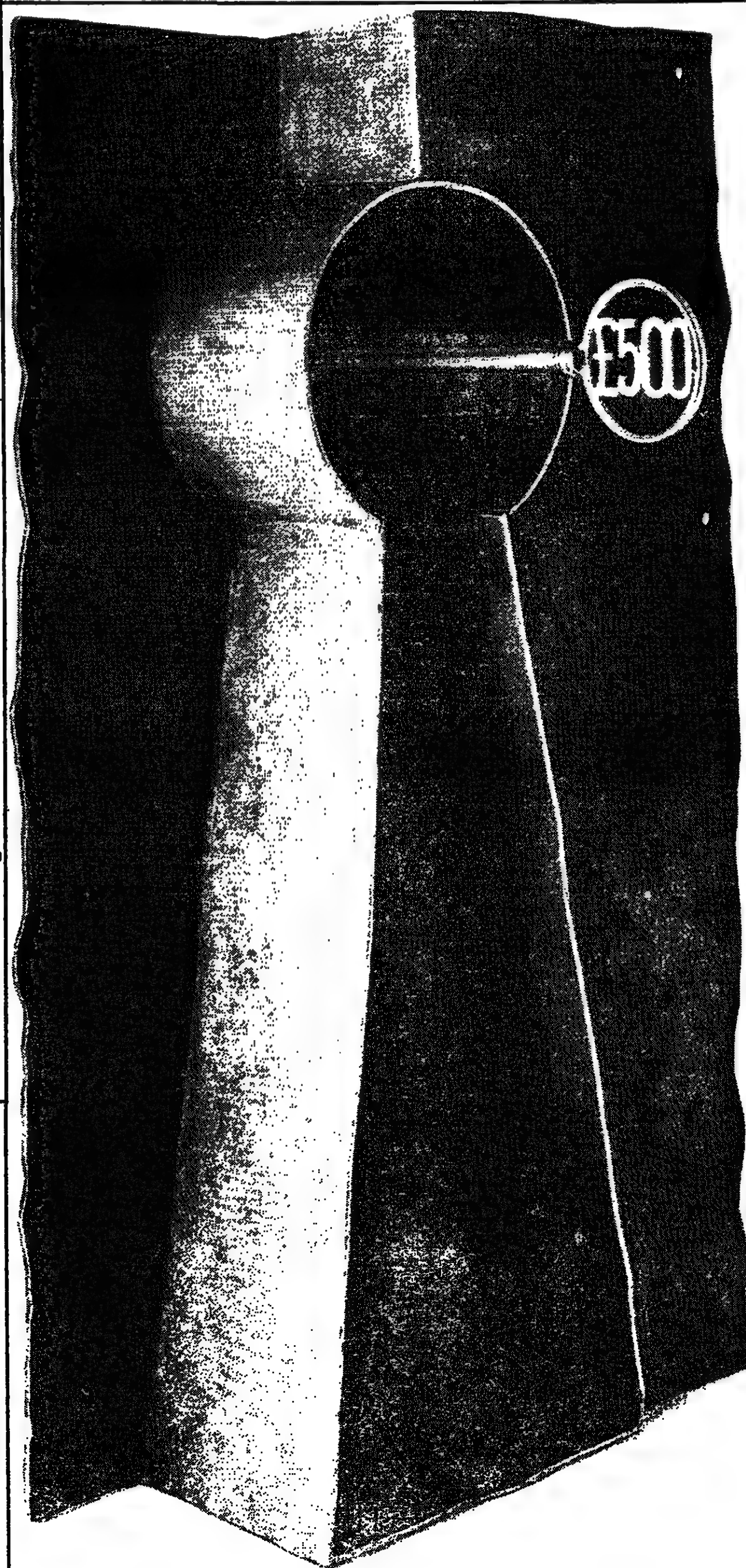
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THE RATE OF INTEREST TO BE CHARGED ON THE OUTSTANDING BALANCES ON MARKS & SPENCER BUDGET ACCOUNTS WILL BE 2.5% PER MONTH (EQUivalent TO 34.4% APR) FOR ALL METHODS OF PAYMENT. THE INTEREST PAID ON A CREDIT BALANCE WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED. THE VARIATION WILL BE REFLECTED IN STATEMENTS PRODUCED ON OR AFTER 5TH AUGUST 1988.

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GOLF

Curry goes through wringer to meet Claydon in final

By John Hennessy

David Curry, the British Amateur champion in 1986, will meet Russell Claydon, a giant from the Gog Magog club in Cambridgeshire, over 36 holes in the final of the English Amateur championship at Royal Birkdale today.

Claydon, who took up the game only six years ago, at the age of 16, is something over six feet tall (he is vague about his height) and has a girth to match (he is deliberately cagey about that). He hits the ball long distances, and with only half a backswing.

Curry, then, recognises he will have a disadvantage off the tee today. "I'll be hitting first to the green tomorrow," he said afterwards, "but so

long as I don't putt first, I won't mind."

Curry has been through the wringer in getting this far. Having been three up with four to play in the morning, against James Cook, the British youth champion, he had to go to the 18th hole.

In the afternoon, he was three up with five to play and two up with three to play against Ricky Willison, of Ealing, and had to go to the 19th. His match on Thursday afternoon had also gone to the 18th after he, conversely, had to recover from two down with four to play.

After an eagle three by Curry, at the 13th, Willison hunted his man home from

the next hole, where he played a superb chip shot to two feet from what Curry had decided was an impossible lie.

It was only when one down when Curry put his second in a bunker at the 16th and all his skill was lost. Willison played a marvellous bunker shot dead by the 18th hole.

But, as with Cook in the morning, the effort to get on level terms seemed to take its toll, perhaps through some psychological lack of follow through. At any rate, Willison hit a wayward tee shot at the extra hole and could not get his four, whereas Curry, for the second time at that hole, used two one-ones to devastating effect. A par four was all he needed.

Claydon was a long time coming to his game against Peter Robinson, the runner-up three years ago. He surrendered the lead with a five at the short fourth and a six on the fifth, green restored Robinson's advantage.

Both players then contrived a series of pars before another untidy hole, the 11th, put Claydon two down. His tribulation ended there. A fine three-iron across the wind safely found the short 12th green, and, as he said afterwards, he was a new man.

A three was enough to win the other short hole, the 14th, and his colossal length, allied to a strong wind, put him on the 17th green (525 yards) with a drive of some 375 yards and, believe it or not, a wedge.

RESULTS: Quarter-finals: J W Milligan (Kilmarnock) 3 and 2; A Thomson (Ayr) 3 and 2; R G Bannister (Preston) 3 and 2; D R Crawford (Sandyhills) 3 and 2. Semi-finals: J W Milligan (Kilmarnock) 3 and 2; A Thomson (Ayr) 3 and 2; R G Bannister (Preston) 3 and 2; D R Crawford (Sandyhills) 3 and 2. Final: J W Milligan (Kilmarnock) 3 and 2; A Thomson (Ayr) 3 and 2.

Milligan ensures a massive turnout

By a Special Correspondent

Andrew Coltart, aged 18, the former Scottish boy champion from Thornhill, meets Jim Milligan, the highly popular local club champion, in today's 36-hole final of the J and B Scottish Amateur Championship at Kilmarnock Racecourse.

In slightly drier conditions, Coltart, making his championship debut, defeated the former Scottish youth cap, Derek Crawford, of the Glasgow club, Sandyhills, 3 and 2, after recording a similar victory over Hamilton's professional son, Ewan Moir, before the lunch interval.

And with the Scottish international side about to be named, the young man from Dunfermline, who intends to continue his studies at Midland College, Texas, later this summer, may well find himself joining the ranks of the senior squad.

In the battle between the two rival Ayrshire players, Milligan,

aged 25, birdied two of the first three holes, although three putted to lose the second against Scottish teammate, Allan Thomson (Ayr Balclicle).

But to Thomson's credit, the match was all square at the turn. Milligan in level par figures while Thomson was one over par 36.

Thomson had his second shot whipped away by the wind at the 10th and hooked the same stroke at the 13th while Milligan made two putts for a birdie to once again trail by two.

The next two holes were halved before Milligan ensured a massive local turnout for today's final by taking the match with a birdie at the 16th.

Roderick seeks two titles

By a Special Correspondent

Neil Roderick, aged 22, the talented international from Pontardawe, and Keith Jones, aged 19, the son of the Wrexham club secretary, meet over 36 holes at Royal St David's, Haverfordwest, today in the final of the Welsh Amateur championship.

Roderick, the top seed, will be attempting to become the first man for two decades since the former Walker Cup golfer, Jimmys Buckley, to win the stroke-play and match-play titles in the same year.

He clinched his place in the final with a 2 and 1 victory over Hugh Evans, a fellow inter-

national from Langland Bay, Swansea, while Jones beat Martin Simmon, of Ashburnham, by 4 and 3.

Striking the ball well from tee to green and putting very confidently, Roderick was three up at the turn but lost the 10th when Evans rolled in an eight-foot putt. Halves all the way after that settled the issue.

Meanwhile, Jones was two up after seven holes in his match and then took the next two to turn for home four ahead.

Simmon, playing his 13th competitive game in seven days, having won the Victory Shield last Saturday and helping

Ashburnham to the team title on Tuesday, was exhausted.

As a result of the outcome there is no doubt that Roderick will be the first champion of the newly introduced Welsh Order of Merit and Jones is assured of third spot with Stephen Dodd, a surprise casualty in the third round of this championship, sandwiched between them.

RESULTS: Quarter-finals: R Roderick (Pontardawe) 3 and 2; K Jones (Ashburnham) 3 and 2; M Simmon (Ashburnham) 3 and 2; S Dodd (Wrexham) 3 and 2. Semi-finals: R Roderick (Pontardawe) 3 and 2; K Jones (Ashburnham) 3 and 2; M Simmon (Ashburnham) 3 and 2; S Dodd (Wrexham) 3 and 2. Final: R Roderick (Pontardawe) 3 and 2; K Jones (Ashburnham) 3 and 2.

POLO

Balance is the key to success

By John Watson

In the first semi-final of the High-Gal Five-Chukka Cowdrey Park Challenge Cup at Amersham, Sussex, yesterday, Maple Leafs beat Cowdrey Park, 7-5.

Cowdrey, who have been playing rather better during this tournament than they did in the British Open, put up one of their best performances of the season, with their Chilean No. 2, Samuel Moreno, at his best and scoring three of their five goals.

Paul Withers, too, who has been in polo for nearly 30 years, was in accurate form, and put in one remarkable 60-yarder from the side of the ground.

The Maple Leafs, like Cowdrey aggregating 22 on team handicap, have a new and formidable line-up. Their former No. 1, Andrew Scavill, has had his handicap raised, and has been replaced by Andrew Hine.

Hine, always keeping a vigilant eye on the opposing back, played hand-in-glove with his No. 2, Julian Hipwood, the squad being completed by Rob Walton, the American, at No. 3, and Weston, at back.

Maple Leafs led 6-2 at half time, after which the Cowdrey players drew together more effectively. But they were guilty of a number of foul looks which went unnoticed.

The decisive factors in the Maple Leafs' triumph were their superior team balance and the sharper cutting edge in their forward element.

MAPLE LEAFS: 1, A Hine (4); 2, J Hipwood (6); 3, R Walton (6); back, G Weston (0).

COWDREY PARK: 1, The Hon C Pearson (2); 2, S Moreno (7); 3, J Campbell (6); back, P Withers (0).

GOALS: 1, A Hine (4); 2, J Hipwood (6); 3, R Walton (6); back, G Weston (0).

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OLYMPIC GAMES

Visas open doors for Soviet team

By John Watson

Members of the Soviet Olympic team will take a key Western consumer convenience with them to Seoul — personal charge cards (Reuters reports).

Visa International, which is sponsor of the Games, said yesterday it has issued the Soviet squad with cards bearing the Olympic torch symbol and the logo of the national team.

The cards could be fore-runners of a credit card system being developed with Visa's help by the Stategyle Bank, the Soviet Union's only bank for private savings and which has 80,000 branches. Such cards are virtually unknown in the Soviet Union, where even cheques are rarely seen in shops. Major purchases such as a car are still usually made with cash, sometimes by the cashed.

A spokesman for Visa's Euro-

pean headquarters, in London, which is handling the scheme, said the first card had been issued last week to Yuri Tioy, the head of the Soviet Olympic committee, by Moscow's VAO Intourist agency.

The cards will operate like company charge cards. Accounts will be settled in hard currency at the end of each month by the Soviet Olympic Committee. Visa said a similar scheme was being launched with the Hungarian Olympic Committee.

Mikhail Misko, the director of the Intourist section responsible for the charge card venture, said earlier this week in Moscow he hoped the day was not far off when credit cards would be available to the general Soviet public.

A spokesman for Visa's Euro-

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SWIMMING: BOYD GOES FOR BROKE AS HE TAKES LARGE STRIDES TOWARDS OLYMPIC SELECTION

A giant rivals can look up to

By Steve Downes

Anyone who chooses to swim the 1,500 metres freestyle deserves to be looked up to, and at 6ft 8½in tall, Kevin Boyd never fails to get the people around him to incline their necks to the required angle.

The 1,500 metres makes special demands of the swimmer.

It is the equivalent of the 10,000 metres on the track, with all-out speed rarely needed, but requiring absolute concentration and a determined temperament, the ability "just to keep pushing on even when it's been hurting as early as after the first 300", as Boyd, aged 22, the British record-holder, describes it.

When fully stretched, Boyd's long frame is eminently suited to the longest event in the Olympic pool, abbreviating the 30-length haul at each end with a languid tumble turn. In what is only his second serious season at the distance, Boyd, in rivalry with Tony Day, has taken the British record into international respectability.

Going into the 12-month build-up to the Olympic Games, Boyd needed to make a decision. About a year before, at the 1986 world championships in Madrid, he had made a breakthrough. He narrowly missed a medal, but set a British record in the 400 metres freestyle.

The fourth year of a course in medicine at Newcastle University does not usually allow for someone to spend upwards of four-and-a-half hours a day just slicing his way through chlorinated water. A year off was the solution. With a £3,100 annual grant from the Sports Aid Foundation, and some very tight housekeeping, Boyd thought it could be done.

Last autumn he found that, for a number of often changing reasons, the grant was cut to £600. "My major source of income for Olympic year had disappeared down the drain. I was in a bit of bother," Boyd said.



Long-shot: Boyd's massive frame is well suited to 1,500m freestyle (Photograph: John Jones)

"Realizing the sacrifices I had already made, there was no point in just giving up. Anyway, I'm not the sort of person that gives up easily."

Apparently not, for Boyd was soon back in the competition pool, turning out world-ranked performances which gave the grant assessors no alternative but to reinstate at least half the original grant for the final six months towards Seoul.

The results this season have already shown some dividend on the investment. Boyd set the present 1,500 metres freestyle national best of 15 minutes 20.73 seconds last month when he fell foul of a

lap-counting error. "I started my sprint for the finish two lengths later than I would do normally. I was surprised at how much I had left when I finished," he said.

That same weekend, Tony Day, the former record-holder, got within half a second of Boyd's time, as both men joined the world's top 10. However, there was no direct competition between the two Britons, Boyd achieving his time in Monaco, Day recording 15:21.73 in the Welsh championships in Cardiff.

The two men failed to meet again this week, at the TSB national championships in

Leeds, where Day took the 1,500 metres title on Thursday as Boyd watched from the poolside, feeling assured of his Olympic selection at the longer distance but wanting to save himself for the 200 metres freestyle, where he hoped (in vain, as it transpired) to make yesterday's final in an attempt to make the relay squad.

That ambition now seems unlikely, leaving him to concentrate — provided the selectors choose him when they meet tomorrow night — on the two longer events in Seoul. It could be that Boyd gives the rest of the world something to look up to.

Personal best for inspired Parrack

By Steven Downes

There is a story that 12 months ago, a young man called Jim Parrack walked into the Leeds international pool and said, "I want to go to the Olympics." The tale may be apocryphal, but yesterday evening, Parrack walked away from the pool as a national champion on his way to the Games in Seoul.

Being staged in Leeds, the TSB national championships were to be the last for the Moorhouse benefit society, but he was truly a clubman, in a thrilling final that brought the packed gallery to its feet.

Moorhouse, who is pre-selected for Seoul, led the turn from his Dutch challenger, Ron Dekker, with the pre-race second favourite, Nick Gillingham, in touch.

As Moorhouse stretched his way down the final length, though, Parrack, outside him in lane two, was inspired, inching ahead into the lead with 20 metres remaining and hanging on to win. His personal best yesterday is an improvement of nearly four seconds over the past year.

Parrack, aged 21, hails from Cheltenham. He has taken a year off from studying accountancy at Leeds Polytechnic to concentrate on making the Olympic team, 18 months after returning to serious competitive swimming, having been a promising age-groupier.

In the day's other finals, Roland Lee, from Birmingham, beat his 15-year-old rival, Paul Howe, to the 200 metres freestyle title, and they seem likely to be joined in the 4 x 200 metres relay team in Seoul by the bronze medal-winner, Michael Green, of Leeds.

RESULTS: Men: 200m freestyle: 1, R Lee (City of Birmingham) 1:52.72; 2, P Howe (Leeds) 1:54.14; 3, M Green (Leeds) 1:54.14. 400m freestyle: 1, J Parrack (City of Leeds) 4:03.71; 2, A Moorhouse (Moorhouse) 4:03.71; 3, N Gillingham (City of Birmingham) 4:03.71; 4, P Howe (Leeds) 4:03.71. 800m freestyle: 1, J Parrack (City of Leeds) 8:25.40; 2, G Gillingham (City of Birmingham) 8:25.40; 3, R Dekker (Netherlands) 8:25.40; 4, J Parrack (City of Leeds) 8:25.40. 1,500m freestyle: 1, K Boyd (British) 15:20.73; 2, T Day (Wales) 15:21.73; 3, J Parrack (City of Leeds) 15:21.73; 4, R Dekker (Netherlands) 15:21.73. 2,000m freestyle: 1, J Parrack (City of Leeds) 21:52.35; 2, T Day (Wales) 21:52.35; 3, R Dekker (Netherlands) 21:52.35; 4, J Parrack (City of Leeds) 21:52.35.

CRICKET: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE REACH 247 AGAINST WEST INDIANS IN MATCH INTERRUPTED BY RAIN

Tough going but Stephenson produces a sizzling display

By Jack Bailey

TRENT BRIDGE: Nottinghamshire drew with the West Indians in the first of two Tests in the field while 72 overs were bowled at them in a day interrupted by showers. In so doing they accomplished far more than had seemed likely from their overnight position of 91 for five, not only saving the follow on but reaching the heady height of 247. The left-hand batsmen were memorable strokes among his six fours.

Scott has served Nottinghamshire well as a wicketkeeper, since May, and he batted gamely enough against the fast men and Roger Harper (who bowled 31 consecutive overs), to keep French on his toes when he returns in two weeks time.

Harper accounted for Stephenson with a fine caught and bowled, and later gave yet another reminder that he is an outstandingly fine fielder. Scott's eyes lit up as he fastened on to a long hop of gentle pace from Arthurton. The ball was fairly middled, but Harper's telegraphic left arm at despatch mid-wicket shot up and he grasped the ball only to relinquish it instantly. As the ball hit the ground, Scott and Cairns set off on a perfectly reasonable single. But Harper, stung by his unaccustomed reverse, swooped and threw in one fluid motion, and the ball travelled flat for 40 yards, hit the stumps and Cairns was left two yards short, bewildered and unbelieving.

The saving of the follow-on was not far away, however, as Scott was well supported by Cooper. Scott went past his 50 just before heavy rain drove the players from the field, but the

then the match, as a match, was virtually at an end.

WEST INDIANS: First Innings 362 (G G Gillingham 101, J V A Richards 76, A L G Loe 55; C C Cairns 4 for 82).

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EQUESTRIANISM: INJURY TO SHORTLISTED EVEREST LISNAMARROW COULD MAKE SELECTORS REGRET DELAY IN NAMING OLYMPIC TEAM

Lisnamarrow falls victim to pitfalls of Hickstead

By Jenny MacArthur

Janet Hunter's inclusion in the Olympic show-jumping team, for which she is a leading contender, is in jeopardy after her horse, Lisnamarrow, appeared to strike himself while competing in the Silk Cup Derby trial at Hickstead yesterday.

An initial examination by the veterinary surgeon, Joss Belgrave, showed no broken bones, but he will not know the full extent of the injury until a further examination this morning.

The brilliant 12-year-old Irish-bred gelding, who underlined his claim for a team place by finishing second in the Dubai Cup last week in the same arena, sustained the injury to his near-fore on landing after fence seven, a big parallel.

Hunter quickly dismounted as her trainer, Ted Edgar, rushed to the horse's side. The gelding, given to Hunter by her father on her 21st birthday, was led from the ring and taken in the horse ambulance to the stables. If the injury turns out to be serious, it will be a severe blow to Britain's Olympic hopes, already weakened by the absence of John Whitaker and Next Milton.

Meanwhile, Jo Turi,

another Olympic shortlisted rider, was underlining his present form with a second successive win in the competition. It came on his Olympic reserve horse, County Classics Vital, one of only three horses out of the 53 starters to go clear.

The other two clear rounds came from Jeff McVean, of Australia, on Hello, the runner-up, and John Whitaker on Next Hopskotch, who finished third. Whitaker also had no jumping faults on Malcolm Barr's talented young horse, Next Gammon, but, for the second day running, was kept out of the jump-off by a time fault.

Turi's main hope the Silk Cup Derby tomorrow is his probable Olympic horse, Kruger, who had just four faults yesterday, but he is to enter Vital as a back-up.

The selectors, whose delay in announcing the Olympic team prompted most of the shortlisted riders to enter their horses for the Derby, must already be regretting that delay.

RESULTS: Silk Cup Derby trial, 1. County Classics Vital (J. Turi), 48.01; 2. Next Gammon (J. Whitaker), 47.11; 3. Next Hopskotch (J. Whitaker), 47.11; 4. Hello (J. McVean), 46.01; 5. Next Milton (J. Whitaker), 45.01; 6. Next Hopskotch (J. Whitaker), 44.01; 7. Next Hopskotch (J. Whitaker), 43.01; 8. Next Hopskotch (J. Whitaker), 42.01; 9. Next Hopskotch (J. Whitaker), 41.01; 10. Next Hopskotch (J. Whitaker), 40.01.

Sending riders on the right course

By Louise Taylor

By taking the innovative step of establishing the All England jumping course at his Hickstead home in 1959, Douglas Bunn has provided a succession of British riders, from Pat Smythe to Harvey Smith, with a springboard to sustained international success. "I regard this place as a national asset," Bunn, who may be regarded as the patriarch of modern British show jumping, said.

He bought Hickstead Place in 1959 after experience of jumping overseas with the British team had taught him that riders were at a disadvantage over foreign courses which bore little resemblance to those at home. Hickstead duly became Britain's first permanent course. Characterized by a series of imposing fences set in an unusually large, undulating and aesthetically pleasing open-air arena, it bore a resemblance to Aachen and Hamburg.

"I believe that the best show jumping should have a heroic quality about it," Bunn said. "Jumping indoors in an arena only twice the size of a circus ring trivializes and degrades the sport. It also bores people."

Tomorrow sees the zenith of the jumping year at Hickstead, the Silk Cup Derby. In conceiving the idea of the world-renowned, awe-



The great provider: Douglas Bunn and his All England jumping course at Hickstead (Photograph: Denzil McNeelance)

inspiring Derby Bank, Bunn hit upon a means of capturing the public's imagination to such an extent that the Derby is now an integral feature of the British sporting calendar. Sixty feet long, with a 10ft sin drop down a 40-degree slope, the bank questions the nerve of the most fearless rider. It also poses a test of skill so stringent that there have been only 19 clear rounds in 27 years. "The Derby takes brilliance, concentration and courage," Bunn said. "It's no good a horse just being able to

jump high and wide, it has to have a brain. As Hans Winkler once said, if a horse has a weakness it will be found out at Hickstead."

In many respects, Bunn's own life has been as exhilarating and dramatic as, at times, as turbulent as a ride round one of his courses. Three times married, he combined a career as a barrister with jumping for the British team before turning his attentions to course-building, judging, pioneering the sport of team chasing and, above all, evolving Hickstead.

Despite having celebrated his sixtieth birthday in February, he remains joint-master of the Mid-Surrey drag hunt and displays few indications of slowing down. A dynamic character, who gives the impression of not suffering fools gladly, he is very much one of life's doers. "I once took up fishing but found I had the wrong temperament. I thrashed the water so hard it is this wholehearted, vigorous approach to life that has permitted Bunn to invest 'many millions' of his own

money into Hickstead. "It's not a vast investment, it's been very frightening, for every pound I've had from sponsors I've put in 10 of my own." However, such a vast personal and pecuniary input has yielded incalculable rewards and there is no disguising his pride of ownership. "After 20 years the course started to develop a sense of history."

"I do get pleasure from just riding round the place first thing in the mornings; it's hard to remember when it was just a field."

Union man Bishop signs for Hull KR

David Bishop, the controversial Pontypool scrum half, signed for Hull Kingston Rovers in a club record deal.

Bishop, 26, has been a morning. Bishop, who has had a successful relationship with the Welsh rugby over the past few years, but was generally regarded to be one of the best players in the minor game.

He travelled to Hull yesterday to meet the club's chairman, Mr. Gordon Fairbairn in 1981.

Bishop has signed a four-year contract and will make his debut in the opening game at Salford next month. He is likely to play at stand-off and be in direct opposition to Peter Williams, the former England Rugby Union international.

Controversy has dogged Bishop throughout his career and he was banned for 11 months for punching an opponent, Chris Jarman, in a match between Pontypool and Newbridge. Jarman took out a private prosecution and Bishop received a suspended sentence to "I felt it was very harshly dealt with, particularly by the Welsh Rugby Union. I knew there was nothing for me at international level, so I suppose I made my mind up to go to Hull."

"When my proposed deal with St Helens fell through, I felt my world had come to an end. But I realized all I could do was get on with playing rugby for 11 months before the season for Pontypool last year."

Before making his decision, Bishop discussed Rugby League with Paul Ringer, Phil Ford and Terry Holmes, who all switched from rugby union to rugby league.

"It is up to me to show what I can do on the field. These are new rules and a new game, and I shall have to serve an apprenticeship - so I hope that people don't expect too much from me too soon."

The signing is believed to be the first in a series that Hull KR have planned.

Chris Burton, aged 31, a former Great Britain second-row forward, has been placed on the transfer list at £200,000. Rovers have also listed the utility back, John Lydian, and the prop, Malcolm Beall.

The New Zealand loose forward, Mark Hore, has signed for the British first division club, Salford, for £100,000. Hore, aged 25, who toured Britain with Auckland last season, is due to arrive here in October.

John Wilkinson, the Salford chairman, said of Hore, who has made six international appearances: "He will considerably strengthen our forwards."

Wigan, winners of the Wigan Summer Sevens tournament 17 times, are drawn against the champions, Widnes, in this year's Whitbread-sponsored event at Central Park, Sunday, August 13.

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SPORTS POLITICS

The Duke criticized over letter

By John Goodbody

The Duke of Edinburgh was yesterday criticized by Sir Neil MacFarlane, a former Conservative Minister for Sport, for endorsing a manifesto for selected MPs by the Central Council of Physical Recreation (CCPR).

Sir Neil said: "My concern was to receive a letter accompanying the manifesto from the chairman of the CCPR, Prince Philip, saying that Prince Philip endorsed it. The manifesto looked to me as being pretty socialist."

Sir Neil, MP for Sutton and Cheam and Minister for Sport from 1981 to 1985, sought verification from the Palace. "I was surprised to learn that Prince Philip indeed stood four square behind it. It surprised and dismayed me that he unashamedly had lent his name to it."

The manifesto was issued by the CCPR, of which the Duke is president, before the debate on sport in the House of Commons on July 12.

The manifesto, included proposals for the release of corporation tax on governing bodies, mandatory rates relief for sports clubs, tax relief on companies to encourage sports sponsorship, VAT exemption from subscriptions on youth membership and no Government interference in the autonomy of sport without consultation with the CCPR.

Peter Lawson, secretary of the CCPR, said: "This manifesto was originally drawn up in 1981 and was in our report in 1982. It was reprinted in the House of Commons Report in 1983. [He Sir Neil] even wrote a foreword for it."

Boxing

Watson has to settle for draw after heads clash

By Louise Taylor

Michael Watson, the British middleweight prospect, was left feeling upset and frustrated after a technical draw ended in a clash of heads. The 23-year-old boxer, who was selected for the International Boxing Federation (IBF) world middleweight title fight yesterday against Frank Tate and Michael Nunn in Las Vegas, which the

referee stopped his bout with Frank Tate, a fellow-American, in the ninth round.

Nunn dominated events from the start of the bout, which was scheduled for 15 rounds. Tate was knocked to the canvas in the eighth. Stuck in the middle of the ring on his knees, he heard the referee count to nine before the bell saved him.

The referee ended the contest shortly after when Nunn threw a volley of blows at his opponent on returning for the ninth. All the judges gave their points decision to Nunn: 77-73, 78-73, 77-73.

The Californian, aged 25, has had 31 contests without defeat since 21 of them have finished before the limit, despite claims he does not have a hard punch.

For Tate, aged 23, the super-heavyweight champion at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, the defeat was his first in 24 bouts.

Boxing

Nunn ends Tate's reign as champion

By Louise Taylor

It was the second defence of the title he won from Michael Olajide, of Canada, last October.

"You guys remember, I don't hit hard," Nunn said yesterday, "but I'm a boxer. I'm a boxer."

Nunn looked much like his idol, Sugar Ray Leonard, as he mugged and taunted Tate. Tate was never able to land any big punches of his own and seemingly could not get on track.

Tate, who lost for the first time as a professional, said he had trouble making the weight. "You saw a new star in boxing tonight," the promoter, Bob Arum, said. "The next big superstar in boxing was born tonight."

Duff also switched his attention to Rolando Bobel, the IBF flyweight champion, and was planning to stage the contest at Wembley on September 3. But that was before Mike Tyson pulled out of his world heavyweight title defence with Frank Bruno on that day.

Duff is also working on the possibility of Duke McKenzie, the European flyweight champion, from Croydon, challenging Fidel Bassa, the World Boxing Association (WBA) world champion. The Colombian twice beat Dave McAuley, of Ireland. Bassa is in Atlantic City, where his compatriot, Tomás Molinares, met Marion Starling, the WBA world welterweight titleholder last night.

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YACHTING

European title for Anderson

By Barry Pickthall

As Peter de Savary continued with plans to fly his rejected New Zealand Cup challenge to California on August 8, the San Diego defenders have finally met their New Zealand rivals to hammer out the details and date for the cup challenge in September.

"We talked about all the issues involved in the running and management of the races," Andrew Johns, the New Zealand legal adviser, said yesterday. "There is a big agenda and we got through most of it. I don't foresee any problems that cannot be resolved."

Judge Carmen Ciparick ruled that this match must start on September 19, which would clash with the Olympics unless both sides agree to an alternative date. The lucrative television rights, which are expected to be much faster than New Zealand's, could easily recover from such a penalty and the New Zealanders believe their only real chance of winning will be to force Dennis Connor into making rule infringements.

The New Zealanders are also critical of San Diego's plans of a 720-degree turn for rule infringements rather than the traditional protest hearing and disqualification. The American Cup race next year, specifically to counter complaints that the long-reaching legs usually encountered so greatly favour the One Tonners.

The success of the experiment will depend as much on the accuracy of the weather forecasts as the course set, but if the method is adopted it will be one more step along the path which is changing (or distorting, depending on viewpoint) the special character of offshore racing. More and more, offshore races are just like inshore races, only longer.

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YACHTING

Progress at last in America's Cup

By Barry Pickthall

As Peter de Savary continued with plans to fly his rejected New Zealand Cup challenge to California on August 8, the San Diego defenders have finally met their New Zealand rivals to hammer out the details and date for the cup challenge in September.

"We talked about all the issues involved in the running and management of the races," Andrew Johns, the New Zealand legal adviser, said yesterday. "There is a big agenda and we got through most of it. I don't foresee any problems that cannot be resolved."

Judge Carmen Ciparick ruled that this match must start on September 19, which would clash with the Olympics unless both sides agree to an alternative date. The lucrative television rights, which are expected to be much faster than New Zealand's, could easily recover from such a penalty and the New Zealanders believe their only real chance of winning will be to force Dennis Connor into making rule infringements.

The New Zealanders are also critical of San Diego's plans of a 720-degree turn for rule infringements rather than the traditional protest hearing and disqualification. The American Cup race next year, specifically to counter complaints that the long-reaching legs usually encountered so greatly favour the One Tonners.

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YACHTING

European title for Anderson

By Barry Pickthall

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